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Menem calls for expulsion of Iranian ambassador

Judge issues arrest warrants for four diplomats

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) — President Carlos Menem said yesterday Iran's ambassador should be expelled after an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for four absent Iranian diplomats over the bomb blast at the building housing the Buenos Aires Jewish community center.

"I think what is called for is at least the withdrawal or the expulsion, yes, the expulsion of the Iranian ambassador as a first step," Menem told a radio interviewer.

Iran has denied any involvement in the July 18 blast, which killed nearly 100 people, and yesterday protested to Argentina over what it described as baseless and outrageous allegations by the judge.

Ruben Beraja, the head of Argentina's main Jewish organization, also criticized Judge Juan Jose Galeano's finding as being short on concrete evidence.

"It ratifies Iran's participation but has no solid elements [of evidence]," he said.

Menem stressed a final decision on the fate of Iran's envoy to Argentina would be up to his Foreign Ministry, as he had only just read the preliminary finding in which the judge ordered the four held wherever they are.

The ministry's number two, Vice Minister Fernando Petrella, said earlier yesterday the Supreme Court would have to decide whether Galeano had a sufficiently solid case to warrant an international mandat for the four.

Petrella, speaking moments before Menem, also described as "a mere hypothesis" the possibility of expelling any current Iranian diplomats and reiterated that Argentina was no longer considering breaking ties with Iran.

A senior official said Tuesday that Buenos Aires had gone back on its threat to sever ties because it feared retaliation.

Galeano named the four Iranians, all of whom were at some stage in Argentina in an official capacity, on the basis of testimony provided by Manouchehr Motamer, another Iranian under government custody in Venezuela.

Diplomats in the Middle East said the weakest point in the Argentine warrant against the Iranians was that it appeared to be based entirely on the testimony of Motamer — variously described as a former Iranian diplomat, dissident or a defector seeking asylum in Latin America.

Rabin, Arafat agree to intensify talks

Early empowerment and elections to be discussed next week

JON IMMANUEL and DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAELI-Palestinian talks will intensify next week at all levels, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday, as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat promised to tone down statements on issues that divide Israel and the PLO.

Speaking at a press conference after his first meeting with Arafat in the Gaza Strip, Rabin said "negotiations will continue between the two committees which deal with early empowerment and elections at Erez next week."

Early empowerment has been discussed for the past month in five rounds of talks in Cairo. Moving the talks to Erez would be a sign that Israel and the Palestinians are shedding the need for third-party involvement.

Expanding Palestinian self-rule outside Gaza and Jericho to five spheres of government — health, education, tourism, social welfare and taxation, — was the main topic of the almost two-hour meeting, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters later.

Rabin stressed the need for continuous communication between the Israelis and Palestinians. Not only would the joint liaison committee headed by Peres and Nabil Shaath meet next Wednesday, but, he added, if "there will be a need for another meeting between the chairman and myself it will be held a week later."

Arafat addressed Rabin as "your excellency." He thanked him for opening channels to hasten early empowerment and elections, and solving disputes regarding Palestinian influence at the border crossings and safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, which Rabin said would be implemented next week.

Arafat said he hoped that all



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat face the press after their meeting yesterday. (Israel Sun)

problems would be sorted out without the need for another summit. "We hope that we meet together just to shake hands."

Elections for an administrative council to deal with areas outside Gaza and Jericho have not yet been discussed. Those talks were supposed to begin last week, but

Arafat said they would begin next week.

Issues that Arafat had stressed in his meetings with Israelis only a few days ago were soft-pedaled during his meeting with Rabin.

"We agreed to minimize these differences between us starting with Jerusalem, early empower-

ment, financing, donors and donations," Arafat said.

Saab Erekat, who is to lead the Palestinian delegation to the talks on elections, described the atmosphere at the meeting as "not very good, but very candid and very frank. There was an exchange of accusations."

Rabin pointed out that Jerusalem was hardly discussed, despite the issue of the "high priority" given to Jordan's claims there, which so infuriated Arafat and led him last week to ask if Rabin was trying to "start a conflict between Jordan and Palestine."

Rabin said only "there were re-

marks here and there."

Arafat did raise the issue of the promise to maintain Jordan's special role in administering the Moslem holy places in Jerusalem.

According to a participant, Rabin told the PLO leader there is nothing new since Jordan already pays for the administration of the holy places.

"This is simply the status quo," Rabin reportedly said.

In ticking off the issues mentioned at the meeting, Arafat neglected to mention the issue of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners still being held, which remains a sore point for many Palestinians. He was prompted to mention the issue by Ziad Abu Zayyad, a PLO adviser who translated some of Rabin's Hebrew statements into Arabic for Arafat.

Arafat then said, "We are sure his excellency will push forward to release detainees," and thanked him for the release of eight Palestinian women prisoners from Israeli jails. (Story, Page 2)

Erekat, however, said: "The prisoner issue was very disappointing for us."

Rabin referred to the ongoing tensions in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship, which became more evident after a reporter asked about statements made by the PLO's Farouk Kaddoumi calling for the elimination of Israel. (See box.)

"I stressed Israel's commitment to the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement... At the same time I brought to the attention of the chairman some problems of violence," Rabin said.

"Statements that undermine or are against what we are committed to will not be heard by officials of both sides. Let us hope that what we are committed to will be implemented in the spirit of realism, to work together to cope with those who by violence try to undermine our efforts," he concluded.

Rabin: Kaddoumi statement violates PLO accord

JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday that statements by Farouk Kaddoumi calling for the destruction of Israel violated the accord with the PLO, and if repeated could be an obstacle to the implementation of the agreement.

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, was quoted as saying on PLO radio that "there is a state which was established through historical force and it must be destroyed. This is the Palestinian way."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was asked to comment on Kaddoumi's remarks at the joint press conference with Rabin yesterday at the Erez checkpoint.

"This is his [Kaddoumi's] point of view, not that of the PLO. I am looking into it now," Arafat said.

He was then asked if Kaddoumi represented the PLO, and Arafat said: "He is our foreign minister."

Rabin then immediately interjected in Hebrew, saying that "Farouk Kaddoumi's comments con-

tradict the agreement and there is no way we will let them pass, because he spoke against what the PLO chairman committed himself to in his letter to me [last September 9], which was a condition for mutual recognition."

"If words like these are heard in the future, they will be an obstacle to further advancement towards putting the DOP [Declaration of Principles] into effect," said Rabin.

"We cannot accept that a senior

man in the leadership of the PLO rises up and speaks against the existence of the State of Israel," Rabin added.

Arafat is obligated to convene the PNC to invalidate clauses in the Palestinian National Charter which call for the elimination of Israel.

Arafat has said he cannot convene it until all 500 members of the PNC have arrived in Gaza and a two-thirds majority can be expected, which may not be possible yet.

World Bank starts releasing funds for areas

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE World Bank and the PLO have reached an understanding that will allow at least partial funding of the Palestinian Authority by foreign countries, a senior World Bank official said yesterday.

Prem Garg, the Washington-based coordinator for World Bank activities in Gaza-Jericho, who is visiting here, said "we will now be going to start releasing \$13 million every month of donor assistance to cover salaries and other operating expenses of the authority."

He said the funding for Palestinian police and other project assistance was still unresolved.

Thirty-four countries have pledged \$600m. to assist the Palestinian Authority during its first year of operation.

But the World Bank held up the transfer of the funding because the Palestinian Authority

had not established an accountable financial mechanism for disbursement of the funds. It remains unclear what assurances the Palestinians provided Garg that cleared the way for partial funding.

Referring to his meeting on Tuesday with [PLO Chairman] Arafat in Gaza, Garg said, "We had a very constructive meeting. It was useful in removing a number of misunderstandings in the past. The donor assistance program is picking up momentum, and we should see some significant development activities in the near future."

Israeli officials were surprised to learn of the agreement yesterday during Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's meeting with Arafat in Gaza.

Palestinian officials were not available for comment.

Bezek reports 25,000 calls made to Jordan in four days

JUDY SIEGEL, JOSE ROSENFIELD and Tim

TWENTY-FIVE thousand calls were made from Israel to Jordan during the first four days of direct phone connections between the two countries.

Bezek said yesterday that the phone traffic was phenomenal. Bezek did not say how many calls were made from Jordan to Israel.

Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kaul made one of the calls: a fax message to Ahmad Nawawi, the director-general of the Jordanian telecommunications company. He

suggested a joint meeting in either country to discuss communications links and the development of additional services.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday signed regulations setting phone rates to Jordan both for direct and operator-assisted calls.

A call during peak hours (8:00-22:00) will cost NIS 3 a minute, and NIS 2.40 at other times. The rates require final Knesset Finance Com-

mittee approval.

At Ein Avrona yesterday, the Israeli and Jordanian delegations concluded another round of talks on border demarcations. They reportedly made progress on deciding what tools to use to determine the final border, including maps and other materials. Talks will resume on Monday at the Dead Sea, and

the Ein Avrona site will be dismantled.

The Israeli and Jordanian delegations negotiating yesterday at the Moriah Hotel at Ein Boker made progress in the fields of energy and tourism.

Israel Electric Corporation director-general Moshe Katz and his Jordanian counterpart met there yesterday, and agreed to advance plans to link up the two countries' electricity grids. Next week, Israeli and Jordanian technicians are to

discuss the matter during a meeting at Sdom.

It was also agreed that the countries' tourism ministries would cooperate on joint marketing projects, which will include offering tourism packages to Israel and Jordan.

A group of Jordanian tourism experts are to come to the discussions next Wednesday to present Jordan's tourist attractions.

Post calls JTV, Page 3

Opening of Tel Aviv arts center in jeopardy over approval of funding

HELEN KAYE

A CRUCIAL vote at Sunday's meeting of the Tel Aviv City Council will determine whether the \$45 million Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC) will open as planned on October 24.

At issue, said TAPAC general manager Uri Ofer, is approval of the NIS 87 million required to finish construction of the 1,600-seat opera house and surrounding plaza, which is the first stage of the planned three-theater complex.

According to Ofer, NIS 15 million of this sum is to come from the operators of the 1,200-car parking lot, NIS 50 million in the form of a government loan and NIS 22 million from the city's 1994 development budget.

"All this was supposed to be decided in January," he said. "Now we are in August, and although the construction outlays

have not been officially authorized, the municipality hasn't stopped the work. Contracts have been signed, orders have been placed, and even if the budget is not approved, the city will have to pay or face lawsuits."

Moreover, contracts have been signed with the various cultural institutions that will be using TAPAC.

The resultant financial losses would far exceed the sum currently needed, Ofer said.

Opponents of TAPAC, he continued, are "willing for it to become a white elephant, saying that the expenditure of public money on cultural construction rather than on public housing is a scandal. That's the kind of political demagoguery behind all this."

City Councilman Amir Halevy (Likud), a leader of those opposing the allocation, said that opposition in the council stems mainly from a desire to exercise damage control over a project which he said was a bad decision from the outset. Construction of the opera

house began in August 1990. The main driving force behind TAPAC, former mayor Shlomo Lahat, declined to comment on the current fiscal fuss.

Halevy said that 50% of the proposed NIS 50 million loan, which has already been authorized by the Treasury, should be a government grant, because "the municipality should not be required to finance the opera, which benefits the whole country."

He also said he had discovered what he termed irregularities in TAPAC's management, including improper tender offers and unwillingness to supply documents as requested. The municipal comptroller, Judge Arye Segalson, has been asked to investigate, "and we don't want to authorize or transfer funds until we know what's going on there," Halevy said.

In response, Ofer said: "[TAPAC] is a municipal corporation and nothing here is done without the knowledge and consent of the municipal authorities. All these insinuations merely cloud the issue, which is whether or not to approve the budget."

Hebraists say 'lo' to teaching in English

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Hebrew Language Academy, at a special session yesterday, decried an Education Ministry proposal to introduce English-language teaching of non-academic subjects in 12 high schools.

"Hebrew is turning into the language spoken on the buses. Our colleagues at the universities have already decided that doctoral theses can be written in English. International conferences are held in English. The Hebrew language is in danger," said academy head Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher.

"Only in some of the yeshivot and amongst the Arab population do we hear correct Hebrew spoken these days," said writer Shulamit Har-Even. "Once upon a time, Israelis had a common text. Language is identity."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein had earlier agreed to postpone the experiment in Jewish schools. But he said that the plan, which would involve the teaching of such subjects as music and physical education in English, would nevertheless be conducted

in three Arab schools.

Rubinstein pointed out that 30% of those who had taken the English matriculation exam at the three-point level had failed the test. Pupils who are not competent in English and mathematics, he said, will find higher education and international business contacts closed to them.

"I appeal to you to join us in finding a solution to the problem of English teaching," he said to the academy members, many of whom are university professors.

He noted that only 20% of university graduates were of Oriental origin. "They do not have private English teachers or parents who go on sabbatical, to help them improve their English. The bagrut certificate determines one's social status."

Experiments in Canada and France, as well as here, have shown that increased second-language teaching had a beneficial effect on the pupils' grasp of their mother tongue, Rubinstein added.

Police probe Orient House over suspected questioning of collaborators

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE are investigating whether suspected collaborators were interrogated by PLO security officials in Orient House, the Jerusalem police spokesman said last night.

Spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the investigation comes after police three months ago uncovered a Palestinian gang operating as a police force in eastern Jerusalem.

The gang was headed by a senior body guard to Faisal Husseini, in charge of PLO affairs in Jerusalem.

Husseini works out of the Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

Police Minister Moshe Shohat told Israel Television last night that charges would soon be brought against the gang members.

Shohat met with Husseini on Sunday and demanded that the PLO halt its efforts to set up a police force in eastern Jerusalem, sources close to the minister said.

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8 female security prisoners released

RAINE MARCUS and BAT SHEVA TSUR

EIGHT female security prisoners were released from Hasharon Prison last night, after they received commutations from President Ezer Weizman.

The release follows negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government to free Palestinian prisoners who are serving sentences for relatively minor offenses.

The Prisons Service stressed that none of the eight released last night have "blood on their hands." They are aged from 17 to 20, and are from eastern Jerusalem, Ramallah and West Bank villages.

Weizman, who had delayed signing the early releases for several days, signed the release papers for the eight women.

Weizman examined the details of every case and accepted the recommendations of the prime minister and security officials, a presidential

spokesman said.

In discussions with the ministers of justice and police, the president expressed the view that the time had come to do away with administrative detentions. In times of peace, accused should be brought before the courts and tried rather than be held in administrative detention, Weizman reportedly said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced the imminent release of the women around 10 days ago, as a goodwill gesture, during a meeting in Tel Aviv with Yasser Arafat's senior adviser Nabil Shaath.

The two discussed the issue of Palestinian prisoners at length, including the release of inmates not serving sentences for murder. Women prisoners should be a priority, Shaath said at the time. Following yesterday's release there are still around 27 female security prisoners incarcerated in Hasharon Prison.



UJA national chairman Richard Pearlstone (left) presents a lithograph of a Chagall window to Crown Prince Hassan at his palace in Amman. (Bob Commins)

European firms plan to finance Gaza port

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Dutch, French and Italian firms will sign a preliminary deal today with the Palestinian Authority for a \$60 million project to build a harbor in the Gaza Strip, the Dutch Development Ministry said yesterday.

Ballast Nedam NV of the Netherlands, Spie Batignolles of France and Sistem Ingegneria of Italy would be equally involved in the scheme pending agreement on full financing, a feasibility study and an environmental audit.

"The Dutch government has pledged 40 percent of the finance but can only give it if the other 60 percent is in place," said a development ministry spokesman. "The other conditions must also be satisfied before work can start."

Congress approves bill canceling Jordan's debt

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress gave final approval yesterday to a \$13.8 billion foreign aid bill that begins cancellation of Jordan's debt to the United States as a reward for its peace moves with Israel.

The bill also includes \$50 million in emergency and refugee aid for Rwanda, provides \$1.2 billion for former communist bloc countries and lifts a two-decade-old ban on bilateral aid to Vietnam.

The measure, approved 88-12 by the Senate, now goes to President Clinton to be signed into law. It passed the House on August 4.

The foreign aid bill includes \$99 million as a down payment on Clinton's promised \$700 million in debt forgiveness for Jordan. The money will leverage the first \$220 million in loan cancellations.

UJA mission meets with Prince Hassan

BAT SHEVA TSUR

JORDAN and Israel should hold talks to coordinate economic development before the Casablanca economic conference in October, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan said yesterday.

He was speaking during a breakfast meeting with 98 members of the UJA's Prime Minister's Mission at the Hashemite palace in Amman. The mission members crossed over to Jordan shortly after the opening of the new Arava border crossing.

Delegation members, some of whom have businesses in Israel, dis-

cussed "infrastructure and investment in broad terms" with the crown prince, UJA national chairman Richard Pearlstone said later, after the group returned to Jerusalem. He said they had not discussed details and that a meeting with Jordanian businessmen had been canceled because of changes in the delegation's schedule.

Hassan told the UJA mission, whose members have contributed at least \$100,000 in the past year to the

organization, that the Jordanian monarchy wanted to bring peace to the man in the street.

"What counts is the implementation, the nuts and bolts," Hassan told the American Jewish leaders.

Praising the warm reception they received in Jordan, UJA executive vice president Brian Lurie said the atmosphere was totally different from that in talks with the PLO leadership. The PLO wants economic relations first with the outside world, whereas

Jordan is looking to Israel for economic ties, he said.

Private individuals in the US can contribute to the peace process by building economic and social bridges, said mission co-chairman Josef Wilf, who owns two hotels here.

UJA President Joel Tauber predicted it would be much easier to raise funds for Israel when there was peace.

The group, which met with Prime Minister Rabin last night, arrived here two days ago after meeting King Hassan of Morocco.

Business of Jordan supporter in Jenin torched

THE conflict between PLO supporters, especially Fatah, and pro-Jordan Palestinians in the territories escalated late Tuesday night when the office of a Jenin businessman, known as a Jordan supporter, was torched.

Samir Sabhat, a Fatah leader, said that Jordan is planning another "Black September," but this time in a political sense, by dwarfing the Palestinians' achievements in the negotiations with Israel. (Itn)

Report: Serious breakdown in police operations in territories

BILL HUTMAN

A SERIOUS breakdown in police operations in the territories was revealed in an internal police report presented recently to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The situation of the police today [in Judea and Samaria] does not permit the necessary law enforcement and keeping of public order," according to the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Jerusalem Post.

The report, compiled by a committee headed by Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, calls for more authority, funding and manpower to be given to the police, and for better coordination between the army and police - demands made in the past by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

"With the progress in the peace process and redeployment in areas of heavy Arab population, the responsibilities of the police will increase. Police manpower must be increased and operations improved accordingly," the report said.

The report, a follow-up on the findings of the Shamgar Commission on

the Hebron Massacre, includes detailed recommendations for improving police operations in the territories.

Police have asked Rabin for an NIS 113 million budget allocation to cover the costs of the additional manpower and facilities in the territories, according to the report.

Police sources said that the prime minister has yet to respond to the request for the additional money, a large part of which is to fund over 700 new officers police said need to be deployed in Judea and Samaria.

In a item headed, "The Absence of the Rule of Law in Judea and Samaria," details were given, based partially on the Shamgar Report, of failures to properly keep the peace and carry out police work in the areas.

"It is important to emphasize that while the major responsibility of the police in Judea and Samaria is to investigate criminal incidents, in fact incidents are first dealt with by IDF

soldiers untrained in gathering evidence and not 'contaminating' the scene of a crime," the report said.

In other areas, such as handling unrest by settlers, police officers are also better trained than soldiers, according to the report.

The report singled out Hebron as being a "tense area" that requires more of a police presence. It recommends a police officer replace the city's army commander.

"The police have the knowledge and professionalism, the ability and practice, to give professional service to the civilian population, while also constituting a calming influence on the population."

The report noted that steps have already been taken to improve police operations in the territories, through the formation of the Samaria and Judea Police District. But police are still awaiting the funding for the manpower and equipment to properly operate the new district.

The report did not address police operations in Gaza.

Police: Army ridicules us in territories

BILL HUTMAN

THE army "treats the police with ridicule" in the territories and hinders police work there, the commander of the Samaria Police District said during a recent closed meeting of police brass.

The minutes of the meeting were obtained by The Jerusalem Post. They included discussions by the police follow-up committee to the Shamgar Commission's findings on the Hebron massacre.

"The army does at it pleases to get things done on the ground," Cmdr David Biton said. "The relation of the army to the police is one of ridicule and disdain."

The poor relations between the army and the police often create situations in which police operations are hurt, according to Biton.

"Sometimes it results in things being taken care of in an illegal manner," he said.

The comments were made during a meeting on July 19, at which police commanders in the territories were summoned to give testimony before the follow-up committee.

The comments reflected one of the overall findings in the committee's report, that it is crucial to improve

army-police relations in the territories.

The army today has authority over the police in the territories. Police there must get the approval of the army to do even basic investigative and intelligence work.

"IDF officers sometimes do their jobs unprofessionally, which puts the police officers in an embarrassing position," Biton said.

Biton concluded that it would be best to increase the police's authority and responsibilities in the territories, in light of the failure of the army to deal with the problems there, particularly in keeping the peace.



Paul Tarciccius Tobian, the defense minister of Papua New Guinea, shakes hands with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the Defense Ministry offices in Tel Aviv yesterday. The two signed a memorandum of cooperation in defense and security matters. (Ilan Oseendryver/Israel Sun)

Syrian defense minister: No compromise on Golan

News agencies

SYRIA'S defense minister, in a rare commentary on the Mideast peace process, ruled out any compromise on the Golan Heights and warned that if the United States does not pressure Israel to come to terms it could face dire consequences.

In the commentary in the September issue of *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Lt.-Gen. Mustafa Tlass was also very hostile towards PLO leader Yasser Arafat and dismissive of the public contacts of Jordan's King Hussein with Israel.

Tlass, who is also deputy prime minister, wrote the article before the latest Mideast peace mission by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher which ended Tuesday.

In Lebanon yesterday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa said his country was engaged in serious efforts with Israel to break the deadlock in their peace negotiations. Despite the "constructive spirit,"

Sharaa said, no tangible progress was made during Christopher's latest Middle East shuttle to mediate a breakthrough.

Sharaa spoke to reporters after meeting with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz to brief them on the outcome of Christopher's talks in Damascus earlier in the week.

Sharaa sought to ease mounting tensions in south Lebanon between Iranian-backed guerrillas and Israeli forces, telling reporters Syria opposed targeting civilians in the conflict.

"We're not sure until now whether there's been an important change in the Israeli position as long as they haven't publicly committed themselves to full withdrawal from occupied Arab territories," the Syrian official said at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

Holy sites in Judea, Samaria to be under Israeli control until final agreement reached

HAIM SHAPIRO

ALL the holy places and tourist sites in Judea and Samaria are to remain under Israeli administration until a final arrangement is reached with the Palestinian administration, the Tourism Ministry announced yesterday.

The statement followed the completion of negotiations in Cairo on early empowerment of the Palestinian Authority.

Among the sites which are to remain under Israeli administration are the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, Joseph's Tomb in Nablus and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. The Church of the Nativity is to continue being administered according to the status quo regarding Christian holy places.

All the nature reserves and national parks in the area are also to be under Israeli administration, with the exception of the sites in Jericho - which have already been turned over to the Palestinian Authority.

However, according to the agreement, the Palestinians are to deal with the commercial marketing of these sites and the development of tourist infrastructure, such as souvenir shops, restaurants and hotels.

The Palestinians are also to be responsible, in coordination with Israel, for licensing tour guides and travel agencies, as well as licensing and grading hotels and training hotel personnel.

If the tour guides want to operate in Israel proper, their standards must be the equivalent of those in Israel.

A joint commission of Israel and the Palestinian Authority is to coordinate between the two in issues concerning tourism, including joint marketing abroad.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who is also the Palestinian tourism minister, were due to meet last night to discuss implementation of the agreement.

Jordanian editor jailed for criticizing peace moves

JORDANIAN Prosecutor-General Jamal Ishtaidat Tuesday ordered the detention of Nidal Mansour, chief editor of the *al-Bilad* weekly, apparently for publishing an article critical of Jordan's peace quest.

Mansour, who was ordered held for two weeks, was released on bail a few hours later.

He said Ishtaidat accused him of violating the press and publications law by publishing comments of the Popular Resistance Committee, an unlicensed anti-peace group. (Reuters)

IDF: Barak didn't mislead cabinet

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak did not mislead the cabinet last Sunday in reference to the possible closure of the Negev air force base, the IDF said last night.

On Sunday, Barak reportedly said that due to budget constraints the air force will be forced to close Negev.

Prime Minister Rabin and Barak have discussed the issue of Negev, said the statement, "but have not reached a decision and will not make one until the government decides on whether it will increase the defense budget."

We regret to announce the sudden passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather
ELIYAHU LANKIN
The funeral will take place today, Thursday, August 11, 1994, leaving at 2:00 p.m. from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor.
Shiva at Nofei Yerushalayim
His wife, Doris
His daughter, and family

The Jewish Agency for Israel The World Zionist Organization
To Poju C. Zabudowicz and Family
Deepest sympathy on the death of
SHLOMO ZABLUDOWICZ
A founder of Israel's defense industries, who made great contributions to the State of Israel.
Hanan Ben Yehuda, Treasurer

On the untimely death of our dear
SHLOMO ZABLUDOWICZ
we offer our sincere condolences to
Mrs. Pola Zabudowicz,
Mr. Poju Zabudowicz and family,
and to Dr. Rebecca Beldegrun and family.
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On the thirtieth day after the passing of
SALLY (Sarah) HOROWITZ
there will be a memorial service at
WIZO House, Sd. David Hamelech, Tel Aviv,
at 4 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 1994.
Details from Ruthie Reshef, 06-5615090.
Reshef, Getzler and Leibner Families

Rebecca and Walter Hubert and Family
offer their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Roth Family, on the sad loss of
JOSEPH ROTH
A wonderful, devoted father, husband and grandfather
May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion

The staff of Alutherm is saddened by the passing of
JOSEPH ROTH
To his wife Esther,
his children Larry and Marsha Roth,
Judy and Herbert Lustig,
and Paul and Georgina Roth,
our thoughts are with you.
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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Notice to Recipients of Income Supplement Payments

Effective August 1, 1994, only persons aged 20 or over are eligible for income supplement payments.

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 - ▶ deserted
 - ▶ married
 - ▶ a widow/er
- ▶ You are a prisoner working in service
- ▶ You are a released prisoner
- ▶ You are undergoing rehabilitation
- ▶ divorced
- ▶ a parent supporting a child
- ▶ a pregnant young woman (as defined by the law)

If you do not meet the above conditions, your payments will stop from August

Information and Public Relations Dept.

Court backs women rabbinic pleaders' claims of bias

EVELYN GORDON

THE rabbinical courts may not require women to learn full-time in order to become rabbinical pleaders, and the curriculum for the certificate cannot be changed retroactively, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

It was deciding on a petition by the Institute for Training Women Rabbinical Pleaders, which is affiliated with Ohr Torah institutions.

Until 1991, only yeshiva graduates could be rabbinical pleaders. At that time, however, the law was changed to allow the graduates of any educational institution recognized by the Rabbinical Court of Appeals to sit for the certificate exams.

For more than two years, however, the Rabbinical Court refused to set criteria for recognition, making it impossible to obtain. Thus, when a temporary permit for its graduates to take the exams expired, the institute petitioned the High Court to force the Rabbinical Court to set the criteria.

Justices Dov Levine, Zvi Tal and Tova Strassburg-Cohen rejected the institute's claim that the rabbinical court was not authorized to set criteria, since the law gives this authority to the religious affairs minister.

Setting certification requirements requires special knowledge and expertise, Levine wrote, so it is reasonable for the minister to give this job to a body which has this knowledge.

However, the justices agreed that the Rabbinical Court has not been acting in good faith. The very fact that the court set the criteria for recognition 2½ years after the law was changed — and only after the institute filed its petition — shows bad faith, Levine wrote.

In light of the court's clear desire to see the institute fail, Levine continued, some of the criteria that were finally set also appeared discriminatory — in particular, the demand that an approved institute run classes all day, every day for at least two years.

Since most of the institute's students are married women, most with families and many with jobs, such a schedule would be impossible for them to maintain, he said. If their current schedule of two days a week is enough for them to pass the exams, he said, that should suffice.

Though yeshiva students must learn full-time for four years to be eligible to sit for the certificate exams, Levine added, it is not reasonable to make the same demands of these women students, who are older, usually already have an academic degree and are not receiving state funding for their studies.

The justices therefore ordered the Rabbinical Court to change this criterion, and to let the institute's students continue sitting for the exams until it has done so.

They also ordered the court to clarify what is needed to fulfill some of the other requirements, which include maintaining an "appropriately high" level of studies and requiring students to observe "a religious life-style."

The institute had also attacked the Rabbinical Court's decision to suddenly double the amount of material covered by the exams — after the curriculum had not been changed for 20 years — and to give each of the two exams only once every two years, instead of giving both every year. Both steps, the institute said, were designed to make it harder for their graduates to pass.

The justices decided that it was within the Rabbinical Court's right to expand the requirements. However, they said, the change could not be retroactive. Anyone currently studying for the exams must be allowed to take them using the old curriculum, they ruled; the new requirements will apply only for those beginning their studies this fall.

With regard to the exams, each one should be given twice at reasonably close intervals, so that someone who fails the first time doesn't have to wait two years to try again, the justices ruled.



A light plane lies where it crashed yesterday at Jerusalem's Atarot airport.

(Efraim Kibrit)

Four injured as light plane crashes at Atarot Airport

HAIM SHAPIRO and Itim

A LIGHT plane crashed yesterday at Jerusalem's Atarot Airport, injuring the pilot and three passengers, one of them seriously.

The plane, whose nose was crushed by the impact of the crash, took off from Herzliya earlier in the day and crashed at 10:30 a.m.

Atarot Airport director Danny Kossowitzky, who saw the crash, said the plane landed, bounced off the runway onto the ground next to it and then bounced again and landed on its nose.

He and several other airport workers rushed out to the crash site. "Four passengers were trapped inside. One of them made a move to get out, but they couldn't open the doors."

Fortunately, the crash did not cause a fire, and rescuers managed

to extricate the four, he said.

The injured, who were taken to Hadassah University Hospital-Ein Kerem, are: Amnon Even, 67, who suffered spinal fractures and whose condition was listed as serious; Lior Idan, 39, who suffered fractured ribs and a fractured hand and is in the intensive care unit; the pilot, Tevi Bin-Nun, 61, who was admitted

to the surgical ward for observation, and his son, Yoav, 27, who was also admitted for observation.

The plane, a Cessna 172, belonged to Moonair, a Herzliya-based company.

Following the accident, a team from the Civil Aviation Administration arrived at Atarot to investigate the crash. An initial investigation turned up no technical reason for the crash.

Six killed as shell explodes in Gaza

News agencies

AN old artillery shell blew up yesterday in a junkyard in Gaza City's Sejmeh neighborhood, killing six Palestinians — including two children — and wounding another six, Palestinian Police said.

The explosion was apparently an accident, as workers were trying to dismantle a shell found lying among scrap metal, said Ghazi Jabali, police commander for the northern Gaza district.

Witnesses said the blast caused nearby gas containers to explode as well.

Other reports said children had been playing with the shell when it exploded.

The wounded were rushed to Shifa and Ahali hospitals in Gaza City, where they were listed in serious to fair condition.

BA to resume flights to Amman, Beirut

HAIM SHAPIRO

BRITISH Airways announced yesterday it will resume its flights to Amman and Beirut.

The airline stopped flights to Beirut in 1983 and to Jordan in March 1990. According to Nira Dror, BA director in Israel, the flights are to begin on December 5.

"In the three years since peace, Lebanon's economy has begun to grow again, and Jordan too is seeing the economic benefits of peace," BA managing director Robert Ayling said in London yesterday. "We are glad now to be able to implement our long-standing plans to return to Beirut and Amman."

The airline is to begin with a flight twice a week to the two destinations, and will increase this to four flights a week from next summer.

Dror said the company would consider in the future the possibility of joint packages including Israel and Jordan and flights which touch down in both countries.

A Transport Ministry spokesman said the issue of flights by third country carriers touching down in Israel and Jordan had not yet been discussed in the negotiations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry launches biggest cadet course

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Foreign Ministry is kicking off its biggest cadets course in its history on Sunday, so as to better deal with the proliferation of Israeli diplomatic missions abroad.

Israel now has diplomatic relations with 146 countries, a full 70 more than it had at the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s. Of the 70 countries, relations with 54 were established or renewed in the aftermath of the 1991 Madrid peace conference. Of that figure, links with 20 of them came in the wake of the Israel-PLO accord.

Fifty cadets were chosen for this course out of more than 2,000 applicants, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman. But, the course size is about double the normal size.

Also, for the first time, prospective diplomats will be allowed to specialize in an Arabist track, apart from the political and administrative routes of service. Officials say this new track demonstrates the premium that Israel puts on ties with Middle East countries in an era of peace.

'Post' reaps fruits of new ties with Jordan — official listings for JTV

LIAT COLLINS

THE new spirit of cooperation between Jordan and Israel has not passed by *The Jerusalem Post*.

In a direct phone call from Jerusalem to Amman yesterday, Jordanian Television scheduling department head Abbas Amaout told the *Post* he would examine ways of forwarding the official television schedules for JTV's programs in English.

Switchboard operators and staff at JTV seemed more flattered than surprised by the request. They were familiar with the paper, they said. Amaout promised to look into the possibility of faxing or mailing the schedules. "I'm hopeful we can find some way of doing this," he said.

The Jordanian station has also been in close contact with Israel Television all week, preparing for the possible visit by King Hussein in Jerusalem.

JTV officials asked their Israeli counterparts to help them rent mobile phones and establish a generator so JTV crews can report from the scene. JTV director Ikso Ramzi asked JTV chief director Amnon Barkai for his home number "to be prepared," and JTV staff have begun joking that the two chief engineers, Wadia Hadad and Meir Heimi, found true love.

State hospital asks Bat Yam to pay for advice

JUDY SIEGEL

A STATE-RUN psychiatric clinic has demanded that the Bat Yam Municipality pay NIS 7,000 for sending experts to decide if children need to be taken out of their troubled homes.

Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, head of the National Council for the Child, said he feared the new billing policy for a service that was until now free would become the rule everywhere due to the planned incorporation of state hospitals.

Kadman sent a letter of protest to Health Ministry director-general Prof. Mordechai Shani about the charges. No comment was available yesterday from Shani.

The Nitzanim clinic in Bat Yam is run by the Abarbanel psychiatric hospital.

For years, its staffers have been sitting on committees to give advice on children whose parents are

violent or otherwise unable to care for them.

Dr. Aliza Ring-Rosenbaum of Nitzanim told the municipality that for the 33 two-hour meetings during the past year, it would have to charge NIS 204 per session.

If the municipality has to pay, it will have to charge troubled families. "It seems to me that families with difficulties won't come for treatment to the clinic if they have to pay," warned Zvika Warshavsky, a municipal youth coordinator.

"This is an absurd rule," Kadman said. "From now on, must municipal social workers send the hospital a bill every time they are asked to advise Abarbanel? Won't this bring about a vicious circle, with an army of clerks and lawyer sent to collect money from the same source — the Treasury?"

Eurosport cable broadcasts to continue

LIAT COLLINS

The Eurosport channel will continue to be broadcast on cable TV — albeit with poorer reception — following an agreement between the channel and the cable companies to enter into negotiations on broadcasting rights.

Two weeks ago it appeared that reception would be lost, when the channel changed satellites.

The expected break in broadcasts caused a rift between the cable television franchise holders and officials of the Cable Television Council, the public body that supervises the franchisees under the auspices of the Communications Ministry. Council officials said Eurosport representatives had told them the problem is a financial matter, while the cable

companies claimed the problem is entirely technical.

Yossi Douer, head of the Israel Cable Television Association, the umbrella group of the franchise holders, said yesterday: "Significant resources and effort were invested by the cable companies to ensure the reception of the channel, though for the meantime the reception will be poorer. The cable companies are working on a way to improve it."

Michal Rafaeli-Kaduri, head of the cable council, said that the cable companies would begin negotiating with Eurosport shortly to arrange payment of broadcast rights and find the proper technical means to receiving the station here.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman catches parasite from Filipino maid

A 79-year-old woman rushed to Laniado Hospital in Netanya this week is believed to have been unintentionally infected with parasites from her Filipino maid. It is only the second reported case ever in Israel.

The hospital reported that the woman arrived in serious condition with diarrhea, shortness of breath, a persistent cough and skin eruptions all over her body.

Doctors in the internal medicine department headed by Dr. Moshe Gelber initially thought she had acute pneumonia, but a stool culture disclosed a surprising discovery: *Strongyloides stercoralis* worms, which are known to exist only in the Far East.

Swimming off limits at Ein Avdat

The health authorities have barred bathing at the Ein Avdat springs, a section of Nahal Ga'aton (near the Hurva camping area) and the Jordan River near Meitzad Ateret, due to contamination in the water.

In most of the other swimming areas tested, water quality was good or very good, but Tel Aviv's Trumpeldor Beach and Netanya's Poleg Beach remain off limits. The Tiberies and Ashdod beaches were not tested by their municipalities, contrary to instructions by the Health Ministry.

Israel to return soon to standard time

Israel will change back to standard time on Saturday night, August 27, at midnight. At that time, clocks must be moved back one hour to 11 p.m.

5,000 visit Yad Vashem daily

Some 5,000 people visit Yad Vashem daily, according to the first survey organized by the institution. Some 1.3 million people come to the museum annually, making it the most visited site in the country after the Western Wall, the report said.

The museum was originally built to accommodate only 300,000 visitors annually, according to Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. He said an umbrella project is being planned with the Tourism Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality to construct a new foundation for the site.

Court throws out petition on PLO charter

The High Court of Justice has thrown out a petition demanding that the Oslo agreement not be implemented until the PLO keeps its promise to amend its charter, saying this is a political matter which is out of the court's purview. It also threw out a petition asking that a criminal investigation of Yasser Arafat be opened, saying it is not unreasonable for the attorney-general to decide that the harm such an act would cause would outweigh the good. Both petitions were on matters the court has dealt with before.

Early retirement plan reached at Raphael

The workers and management of Raphael, the Weapons Development Authority, reached an agreement yesterday under which 120 workers would be encouraged to retire at enhanced terms.

The Treasury, however, is still unwilling to fund the enhanced severance for several dozen workers, which could delay implementation of the plan.

The pact was reached at a meeting between Raphael managing director Yitzhak Gat and the Histadrut secretary in Haifa, Baruch Zitz.

Under the plan, the Histadrut has the right to veto up to 20 percent of the suggested names. If there are disagreements regarding the names, the cases will be brought before an arbitrator. The sides are still negotiating the dismissal of 130 additional workers.

Suspected smuggler excretes drug cocktail

A 25-year-old man, who, during 24 hours of police custody excreted 11 small parcels containing drugs, is expected to appear in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court today for a remand hearing.

During his detention, he excreted two packages containing 2000 LSD and 50 Ecstasy pills, six containers holding 20 grams of cocaine, and another envelope containing 2.8 grams of cocaine.

The man, an Eliat resident, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport Tuesday afternoon by detectives acting on a tip-off. A body search did not turn up any drugs, but police remained convinced he was carrying them.

T O D A Y

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UN warning in Sarajevo: stop fighting or we bomb

THE UN commander in Bosnia warned yesterday that NATO warplanes could be called in unless government and Bosnian Serb forces stop trading artillery fire around Sarajevo.

It was the first time the United Nations had issued such a direct warning to Moslem-led government forces, which have been defending Serb-besieged Sarajevo.

Later yesterday, a British Sea King helicopter was hit by a round of bullets as it took off from the Sarajevo airport for a routine flight, UN spokesman Maj. Dacre Holloway said. There were no injuries.

There was no immediate word whether the UN aid airlift to Sarajevo, which resumed Tuesday after a three-week suspension, would be stopped again. Holloway said no UN helicopters would use the airport for 48 hours.

In a letter to the rival military chiefs, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose accused both armies of "serious breaches" of a heavy weapons exclusion zone extending 20 kilometers around the capital. He warned of possible air strikes if violations persist.

DAVID CRARY
SARAJEVO

NATO imposed the exclusion zone in February. Although there have been violations, UN commanders have been reluctant to call in air power.

NATO jets did destroy an aging anti-tank weapon as a warning on Friday after Serb soldiers seized several heavy weapons from a UN collection site. The weapons were then returned.

Air strikes did not appear imminent. Rose's message seemed mainly a reminder that the exclusion zone applies to both sides, not just the Serbs.

An artillery duel north of Sarajevo prompted Rose's warning yesterday. Peacekeepers say government troops have been firing into the zone from the north, while Bosnian Serbs have been firing north from inside the zone toward the government-held town of Visoko and other targets along a broad, fiercely contested frontline.

Maj. Rob Annink, a peacekeeper spokesman, said NATO air strikes would be considered if the two sides continued to violate the no-weapons zone and rejected a proposal to deploy peacekeepers between the warring troops.

"We are worried," Annink said. "We want this to end."

Annink said Rose had asked NATO to pay special attention to the area north of Sarajevo in reconnaissance flights, but that there was no special alert.

Fighting north of Sarajevo, including sustained government offensives, made a mockery of a cease-fire agreement signed June 8, and extended for another month July 8.

The accord was not renewed this month. Yasushi Akashi, the top UN official in former Yugoslavia, expressed regret Wednesday that observance of the truce by both sides "has been far from satisfactory."

"At this critical juncture, I appeal to all sides to show utmost military restraint," he said. "It would be all too easy for the forces of war to prevail again in Bosnia."



A Korean Air jet headed for a resort island despite an approaching typhoon skidded off a rain-slicked runway after landing yesterday. Within minutes, the 152 passengers and eight crew members scrambled down an escape chute before flames enveloped the plane. (AP)

Doctors say it's OK to go home to Rwanda JDC sends over \$300,000 for relief

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres appealed yesterday for a massive presence of human rights monitors in Rwanda in a bid to convince frightened refugees it was safe to return home.

"MSF is not only appealing to the United Nations [to monitor human rights]... but also to all the numerous non-governmental organizations specialized in this task," MSF (Doctors Without Borders) said in a statement. "MSF insists that the security of the population inside Rwanda is guar-

anteed," it added.

The essential immediate requirement was for the deployment of at least 300 civilian human rights observers.

Reginald Moreels, the president of MSF-Belgium, told a news conference the charity had appealed, among others, to the human rights group Amnesty International to send monitors to Rwanda.

"The United Nations' plan to send 20 monitors to Rwanda is not enough," he said. "There needs to be a massive presence of human rights

monitors."

He pointed out that all the attention focused on the refugee crisis in Goma, where tens of thousands have died, had detracted from the genocide in Rwanda.

Aid groups estimate more than 500,000 people have been slaughtered in Rwanda since April in systematic massacres blamed largely on Hutu government troops and militia.

"We must remember that the death from illness is a result of the genocide," Moreels said, adding that those responsible for the mass kill-

ings had to be brought to trial.

MSF estimates more than 600,000 Rwandan refugees are still massed in the Goma area in Zaire, where dysentery is rife and there is a fear the killer disease typhus may have erupted.

The head of MSF-Belgium operations, Georges Dallemagne, said laboratory tests would be completed by Monday to determine whether there was an outbreak of typhus.

Dallemagne said 8 percent of the refugees had died from disease and a further 12 percent had not been accounted for.

SUE FISHKOFF
NEW YORK

IN its second week of a massive fundraising effort, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has already raised more than \$314,000 in donations to aid Rwandan refugees.

It's the largest "and fastest moving" response to any JDC fundraising campaign, according to JDC spokesman Amir Staviv.

More than 2,500 donations have been received from both Jews and non-Jews, including the single largest donation of \$10,000 from an unnamed Washington law firm.

Many of the donations are coming from people who suffered under other brutal regimes.

A former Cambodian refugee wrote, "I know exactly how they need help. I was myself a refugee in Thailand before coming to the United

States. I was crying out for help."

More than 35 American Jewish organizations are supporting the JDC's Rwandan Relief Fund, an effort which is being run jointly with the African-American Institute, a group that promotes multicultural understanding between the United States and Africa.

A five-member JDC medical team moved from Ethiopia to Goma, Zaire, recently, where many of the Rwandan refugees have fled.

Team head Dr. Richard Hodges described the scene in Goma, saying, "Imagine a Woodstock lasting 50 miles; over a million refugees living over 20 miles from a water source, the stench of dying bodies, cholera... and you have some idea of what it's like here."

Speaking by satellite phone, Dr. Hodges said that those strong enough to get to a hospital can survive, while the weakest die out in the open or in their makeshift shelters.

A second medical team will be sent in soon, along with 500 tents and more volunteers to help coordinate sanitation and shelter for the Rwandans that continue to pour into the country.

Agis Israel, a pharmaceuticals company headed by Mori Arkin, donated thousands of units of Cypro, a powerful antibiotic used to treat a particularly virulent strain of dysentery that is afflicting much of the refugee population.

Cubans who hijacked boat detained by US Coast Guard

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Twenty-six Cubans who tried to reach the United States on a stolen Cuban government boat were detained on board a US Coast Guard cutter yesterday and expected to dock in the late morning.

A Cuban diplomat demanded they be returned to Cuba as common criminals, saying a Cuban navy lieutenant was killed and four other sailors were forced overboard Monday when the boat was taken from the port of Mariel.

But the defectors told the Coast Guard on Tuesday night that nobody was killed, and based on initial interviews, it appears the report from Cuba "might be a mistake," Lt. Cmdr. Steven Banks said.

In fact, Banks said that it appears the purported victims of the hijacking "was actually one of the people on board." The hijackers also said three, not four, sailors were forced overboard and were not injured, Banks said.

The vessel was intercepted Tuesday about 100 kilometers southwest of the southern tip of Florida. Although most Cubans fleeing the communist island are brought ashore quickly, the group was detained at sea because of the hijacking accusation.

Yesterday, Coast Guard Petty Officer Alex Worden said officials had decided to bring the defectors ashore, and the cutter was expected to dock in the late morning at the Key West station.

"This is supposedly a hijacking, and we want to make sure the State Department takes a proper action on this," Senior Chief Petty Officer Luis Diaz said.

The Miami Herald quoted an unidentified State Department source as saying the department received reports that the group includes a high-level defector. The newspaper did not provide details.



Swedish soccer player Veronica Ronn (inset) took her first steps on Tuesday since she was struck by lightning two weeks ago and blown out of her shoes (above). The lightning bolt stopped her heart for four minutes and caused burns all over the 16-year-old's body as she stood in goal. The blast hurled her into the air, tore her shoes to shreds and set them on fire. (Reuters)

34 more people detained as France continues crackdown of Algerians

PARIS (AP) — Police detained 34 more people in a fourth night of identity checks in the French capital, and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said yesterday the crackdown on Algerian Moslem fundamentalists was not about to ease.

"If you don't go fishing, you won't catch fish," Pasqua said on French radio.

Counter-intelligence agents, meanwhile, hunted out at least three more people allegedly linked directly to the Islamic movement in Algeria and interned them in an unused army barracks in northeast France where 17 others have been held since Friday.

The newspaper Le Monde said six more people were interned at the Folembar barracks.

The new internments were in bold defiance of a threat of unspecified

reprisals by an armed Islamic group in Algeria if the 17 were not freed. France wants to expel those interned but says it will not send them to Algeria where they risk death for their views.

The crackdown followed the slaying last week of five Frenchmen in Algiers by Islamic extremists. The emergency internments — without any legal proceedings — drew a threat of unspecified reprisals against France from the Islamic Salvation Army which demands freedom for its comrades.

The group is thought to be the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front, the fundamentalist political movement that wants an Islamic state in Algeria.

Algeria's military-backed government, supported by Paris, is engaged

in a fight against an Islamic insurgency triggered when the army canceled January 1992 elections to thwart a Salvation Front victory.

Islamic fighters have been targeting foreigners in their guerrilla war, killing 56 — 15 of them French. More than 4,000 people have died in the violence.

The fresh killings and the reprisal threat spurred fears in Paris that the "jihad," or holy war, could spill onto French soil.

But a Paris imam, a ranking Salvation Front leader, said Tuesday there would be no attacks in France.

The armed group "opposes only the forces of repression in Algeria," he said in a statement. "The Algerian people have no interest in opening other fronts."

Democrats get boost on health reform as US seniors' group endorses bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats scored an important success in the battle over health reform yesterday, as the nation's largest organization of seniors threw its support behind their parallel health plans.

As the Senate prepared to resume debate, the 33 million-member American Association of Retired Persons endorsed both Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell's bill and House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt's plan. "Although neither bill is perfect... they provide the foundation for comprehensive health care for all Americans," said AARP president Eugene Lehmann. "If either bill is defeated, health care reform will be dead for years to come."

President Clinton had wooed leaders of the politically influential group for months to endorse health reform, but the AARP group resisted his appeal while backing the idea of universal coverage.

Yesterday, the organization applauded the two Democratic bills for adding prescription drug coverage for elderly people and starting a long-term care program for people with disabilities.

"We have been waiting a long time... now is the time for us to strike," Lehmann declared.

The AARP plans to run newspaper ads and activate its network of 250,000 volunteers to lobby for the bills, he said. The message will also be communicated to the entire membership in a mailing they will receive September 1.

The AARP endorsement of the Democratic bills came as small and large businesses were gearing up for a fight to block the Mitchell bill, which would aim to cover 95 percent of Americans by 2000 and possibly add a mandate on some businesses to pay half their workers' premiums in 2002.

Democratic leaders in the House were still refining their health plan, which aims to cover 100 percent of Americans by 1999 by requiring employers to pay 80 percent of their workers' health premiums.

Also yesterday, the Senate rejected, on a largely party line vote, a resolution by Republican Sen. Jesse Helms that called for deferring action until next year unless the Senate gets a "full opportunity to debate" the health bill.

Republicans denounced Clinton and his health reform agenda.

"If the president stays on the path he is on he is going to lose," said Sen. Phil Gramm. "Bill Clinton's intransigence is the greatest impediment that we face in reforming health care."

The Senate debate on health reform began late Tuesday with four hours of opening statements and resumed yesterday. The debate could stretch for weeks.

Mitchell opened Tuesday's debate with a litany of the problems that America's 39 million uninsured and others face in coping now with sickness and soaring medical costs.

Bangladeshi author flees to Sweden to escape from Moslem threats

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Taslima Nasrin, the feminist writer who has enraged Moslem fundamentalists in Bangladesh, flew to Sweden yesterday after getting permission to leave her homeland.

"I've come to Sweden... to rest and work," Nasrin said in a statement issued by Sweden's PEN club, a branch of the international writers' group.

"I want to thank everyone who has given me support at home and abroad," the brief statement said. She added that she had arrived on the Swedish PEN club's invitation.

Nasrin arrived in the Swedish capital of Stockholm under a veil of secrecy and tight security. The Foreign Ministry would not say when she arrived or how she arrived. It added only that she was taken to a "secret place."

It was uncertain how long Ms. Nasrin would stay in Sweden. Norway has said it would consider offering her asylum. Norwegian writers also have invited her to attend a writers' conference next month.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, three Islamic groups criticized the Bangladesh government for letting Nasrin leave. "She must be brought back and put on trial," said Fazlul Haq Amin, a fundamentalist leader.

Nasrin arrived in Stockholm apparently from Bangkok, where she had



Taslima Nasrin, at her home August 3. (AP)

gone after leaving Bangladesh on Tuesday.

For two months, Nasrin hid in Bangladesh to escape death threats from extremists in the predominantly Moslem nation. They were infuriated by an Indian newspaper article that quoted her as calling for changes in the Koran, the Islamic holy book.

Bangladesh police also were searching for Nasrin because a court had charged her with offending the religious sentiments of Moslems by making the remarks.

The Moslem fundamentalists groups had threatened to kill her and had organized huge anti-Nasrin rallies in Dhaka. They had vowed to stop her from leaving before her trial. Secular Bangladeshis had organized demonstrations in her support.

Nasrin's case has been compared to that of British writer Salman Rushdie. The Indian-born author went into hiding after Iranian clerics sentenced him to death in 1989 for blaspheming Islam in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*.

Russia, Moldova agree on 3-year troop pull-out

KISHINEV (Reuters) — Russia and Moldova said yesterday that they had agreed on a three-year timetable for the withdrawal of an estimated 15,000 Russian troops from the small southwestern former Soviet republic.

Negotiators who initiated the draft agreement told a news conference in the Moldovan capital Kishinev the deal would come into force as soon as the two governments had approved the text and the leaders of the two states had signed it.

The Moldovan deputy foreign minister, Nicolae Osmochescu, said Kishinev had agreed to the three-year timetable — longer than it initially wanted — because military experts said this was the minimum time needed to withdraw the Russian troops' huge stockpiles of weapons and ammunition.

Yesterday's agreement was the result of 10 rounds of negotiations over two years.

Less than half of US families have kids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer than half of all US families have children and among those that do, nearly one in three has only one parent — usually Mom.

But the image of the two-parent family with children, personified in popular US television shows, persists in the American mind, despite the trend away from that type of family.

That image, says "probably never been a majority of American households at any time in the past, but it certainly has declined" in recent decades, said Census researcher Steve W. Rawlings.

"When we are asked what is the typical family, we usually waffle and say we don't define it," Rawlings said. "Families come in many varieties," and the bureau doesn't want to say what is typical, traditional, normal or average.

The Census Bureau's annual analysis of households and families recorded 96.4 million households last year, including 68.1 million family households. That means families constitute about 71 percent of households, down from 81 percent in 1970.

And of the 68.1 million families, 33.3 million had children under age 18, while the majority, 34.9 million, were childless.

By contrast, in 1970 America had 51.5 million family households including 28.7 million with kids and 22.7 million without.

There were 10.9 million single-parent families last year, up from 3.8 million in 1970, according to the report. That included 9.3 million women and 1.6 million men, up from 3.4 million and 393,000 respectively.

The 86 percent of single-parent families headed by mothers hasn't changed much since 1970, when their share was 90 percent.

"Most people become single parents through births out of wedlock or divorce. A much smaller share is accounted for by separation or widowhood," Rawlings said.

"This was really something that came to center stage, from my point of view, during the decade of the 1970s... since that time the rate of increase has slowed down," he said. Many people see that slowing as a

positive sign.

"On the other hand, we've gotten to the point where three out of 10 families are accounted for by single-parent families," Rawlings noted.

One-parent families are most common among blacks, although white one-parent families outnumber blacks 7.2 million to 3.4 million.

Single-parent families constitute 24.5 percent of all white families with children, while 63 percent of black families with children reside with only one parent.

The corresponding proportions in 1970 were 10 percent for whites and 36 percent for blacks.

Other findings of the report: "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1993," included:

● There were 28.2 million non-family households in 1993, most of which were people living alone. The increase in people living alone leveled off between 1992 and 1993, but Rawlings declined to say any trend in one-year's figures.

● The average number of persons per household was 2.63, which has been steady since 1989.

Study: TV doesn't fool kids

SANDRA EVANS

PARENTS worried that their young children will try to fly like Superman or act as sappy as those kids on the Barney show can take heart. Children five to seven know the difference between reality and TV, a study has found.

In fact, five-year-olds are more likely to assume that everything they see on television is unreal, according to a study published earlier this year in the American Psychological Association's Journal of Developmental Psychology.

"The results of these investigations demonstrate that young children have more refined concepts of television reality than most prior research in the field would lead one to believe," said researchers at the University of Kansas, led by psychologist John Wright.

The study involved 261 children near their fifth or seventh birthdays.

They were shown film clips of television programs - including cartoons, fictional shows, documentaries and news shows - and were asked questions about whether the events were real or appeared only on TV.

There was good news for those concerned that children might take too literally the amazing regenerative powers of cartoon characters, who are repeatedly shot, bombed and splatted on pavement without ill effect.

"Cartoons are one of the earliest genres recognized by children, and the data in this study indicate that five-year-olds clearly understood the unreality of cartoons," the research paper said.

The study also found that the young children had fairly sophisticated concepts of where the unreal ended and the real began. For example, most understood that *Sesame Street* contained both factual and fictional elements.

They also realized that documentaries were more factual than fictionalized dramas. Most of the older children correctly recognized news as factual, while the younger ones were accurate about half the time.



By age three or four, children know the difference between TV shows and real life.

Asked how they separated fact from fiction, the children showed an ability to rely on their own observations of the world, such as the fact that people can't fly.

As they got older, they were

able to use other cues, such as the use of dramatic music, to distinguish between the different types of shows.

Previous research has found that two-year-olds show little un-

derstanding of the boundary between television and their immediate environment, but that by age three or four they have a clear understanding of the separation. (The Washington Post)

Shoes here stay down to earth

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHILE fall/winter fashion previews in Europe and the US indicate there will be a rise in heels and hemlines, footwear styles in Israel are more firmly on the ground.

There are examples of medium to stiletto heels in locally manufactured and imported shoes, but the general trend here is toward either platform soles or flats with classic or chunky heels.

Boots, which this summer have proved to be more popular than sandals, will really come into their own as the weather grows cooler.

Sturdily constructed, American-made Hush Puppies, with strong ankle supports and tractor soles, are available in three heights, and sell at NIS 219 to NIS 249.

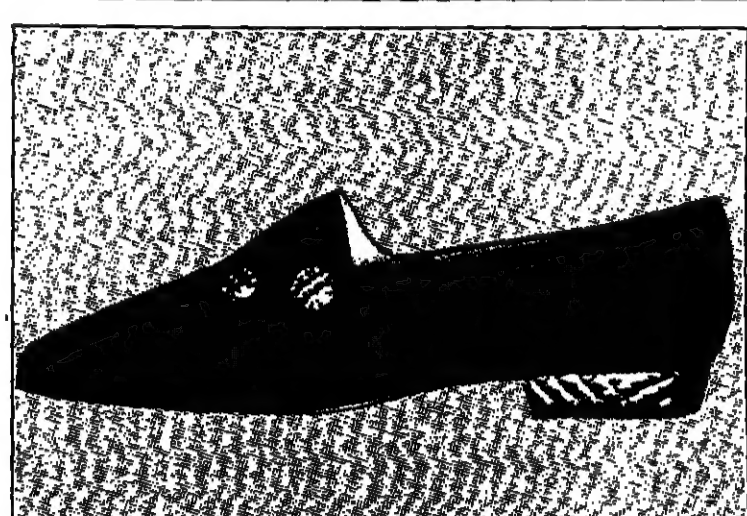
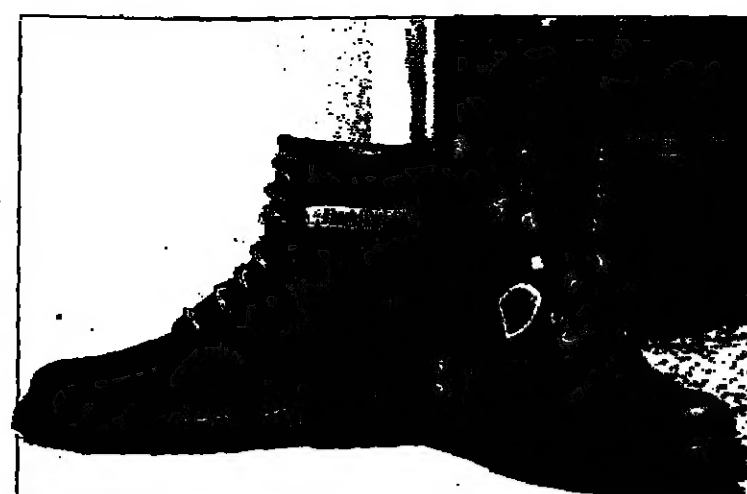
Not quite as solid are the woven patchwork boots and ankle-strap shoes by French upmarket manufacturer David Alexander, whose international chain last month opened its first Israeli branch in Tel Aviv.

Between-season styles are currently selling for around NIS 200 to NIS 300, but prices will increase considerably next month when the new collection arrives.

Among the more elegant flat-heeled shoes are those by Valverde of Italy, represented here by Sitis.

The agent also imports shoes and fashion accessories by such top-line designers as Giorgio Armani, Mario Valentino and Gianfranco Ferré. Valverde shoes, selling for between NIS 330 and NIS 450, combine class with comfort. Traditional court shoes are enhanced by metallic heels and ornaments.

Earth tones dominate the palette for footwear, with psychedelic brights surfacing in the more dressy high-heeled offerings.



Styles that will be popular this fall (from above): Hush Puppy boots; platform-heeled sandals and boots by David Alexander; and low-heeled court shoes from Valverde.

Luxury, safety and power combine to make this a classy van

MOTORS

JOEL GORDIN

CHRYSLER VOYAGER. Seven-seater luxury van. Engine: V6, 3,301 cc., 24 valves. Horsepower: 161 at 4,800 rpm. Torque: 26.5 at 3,600 rpm. Gear: Automatic with overdrive.

Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 13.3 sec. Length: 4.52 meters. Width: 1.83 m. Height: 1.78 m. Maximum load: 755 kg.

Price: NIS 126,000 before VAT.

THE US-made Voyager joins the rapidly snowballing number of multipurpose luxury vans on sale here.

A major reason for the attraction of the Mazda MPV, the Toyota Previa, the Chevrolet Astro and others is that they are recognized as a legitimate tax expense if bought by either an independent businessperson or a company. The VAT on the purchase price on all running expenses, including gasoline, may be reclaimed until January 1 (see below).

Current tax law sets a height minimum for commercial vehicles of 1.75 m., and not as reported in this column last week. The standard, front-wheel-drive Voyager is six millimeters less than the required height, reducing its

chances of being sold widely here. The four-wheel-drive (4WD) model, however, passed the height test, so it is the version being imported by the local agent, Automobile Equipment Ltd.

The 4WD Voyager does not have the suspension or rugged construction to be used as sport/recreational automobile or as a workhorse in rugged terrain.

However, the 4WD does give the Voyager a stability and road-holding performance sometimes lacking in its main competitors.

On the minus side, the 4WD adds weight, pushes up the purchase price and costs more to maintain. It also increases gasoline consumption, which, lacking manufacturer's figures, I calculated at around 6 km/l.

The Voyager is a far cry from the spartan vans many Israelis once called "transit," the most popular make being the Ford Transit. The driving comfort and accessories of the Voyager make it an executive automobile which seats seven.

The back row of seats can be folded forward for extra loading space, but the van is essentially for passengers; it's too poof for carrying parcels.



The four-door Chrysler Voyager is not just a van, but an executive car that seats seven.

The steering wheel is embossed with leather. The dashboard has wood-colored paneling. There are

light-up vanity mirrors behind the sun visors. The driver's seat can be electrically adjusted for height

and legroom. Naturally, there's power steering, electrically operated side mir-

rors and cruise control. There are power windows both front and rear. The inboard computer is no less grand than that on the luxury Chrysler Vision automobile. It gives a reading of average and current fuel economy, elapsed time and kilometers from a previous setting. It also gives the temperature outside and in which compass direction the car is traveling.

The inboard computer is in an awkward place: on the ceiling between the driver and front passenger, forcing the driver to take eyes off the road to study it. Another drawback is that there's no split air-conditioning, important in such a big car, especially in this country.

The gear shift, as in most American commercial vehicles, is a stalk coming off the steering-wheel column, which is fair enough. However, the overdrive control is a button set on the dash, lost among controls for the defogger and alarm.

This is difficult to understand, because the Voyager has otherwise flawless safety features. There are the road-holding and cornering advantages of 4WD, two front airbags, side-impact protection and ABS brakes.

The huge 3.3-liter engine works efficiently and silently. It handles like a conventional automobile. The Voyager may not have the spaceship look of Toyota's Previa

or the capacity to be turned into an office like Volkswagen's Allstar. However, for driving pleasure, engine power and, most important, safety, it's in a class of its own.

What a pity that, because of the 4WD and our zany income-tax laws, it cannot compete with the Mazda MPV's price. (The MPV costs NIS 114,250, the Previa NIS 128,000, the Astra from NIS 119,000, all before VAT.)

The only possible advantage the MPV has over the Voyager, apart from the price, is that it has doors on either side for passengers in the rear; the Voyager has one.

TAX NEWS: From January 1, the purchase price of any car or van will be considered a deductible expense for the self-employed and companies, according to Avihu Ben-Nun, chairman of the Automobile Importers Association. But the running costs will only be tax deductible after the first 14,000 km. driven each year; VAT will not be refunded on any running expenses.

Businesses that have already purchased commercial vehicles under the current rules will be able to claim VAT and tax deductions on running costs for a grace period of three years. Therefore, says Ben Nun, those genuinely needing vans for their work should buy them before January 1.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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PLO words and deeds

It was Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who first used undiplomatic language to describe PLO chief Yasser Arafat's pronouncements. Employing an idiomatic Hebrew expression, he said Arafat's words were "worth garlic skin."

One can only assume that the government's attitude towards Arafat's silences is equally dismissive. After meeting Arafat at the Erez checkpoint yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made clear his displeasure with the latest pronouncement by a PLO official. This time it was "foreign minister" Farouk Kaddoumi's declaration on Monday that Israel was an entity forced on the Arab world which had to be destroyed.

Speaking vehemently about this clear violation of the Declaration of Principles by a senior PLO official, Rabin obviously expected Arafat to join him in condemning it. But Arafat mumbled something about not having seen Kaddoumi's speech (which was made on six different occasions) and said nothing more. His silence spoke volumes, but the government chose to ignore it.

In a radio interview yesterday, Peres did sound incensed about such PLO blunders as Arafat's Johannesburg speech; but he seemed more concerned about the embarrassment such speeches cause Israel than about their contents.

The implication of this contemptuous Israeli attitude is that what the Palestinian leaders say cannot be taken seriously. The PLO officials who shoot their mouths off don't mean these things, government spokesmen explain, they say them to preempt the radicals and fundamentalists and placate "the street." And even if the Palestinians do mean what they say, Israel is so strong and the PLO so weak that such talk must be considered nothing more than the strutting of the impotent, according to these spokesmen.

Even Rabin's anger about Kaddoumi's speech seemed like no more than lip service. After declaring that it is unthinkable that such pronouncements should be made, he warned that "if this happens again, we will consider it a serious obstacle to the process!" The PLO can hardly be

blamed for taking such threats less than seriously. They have heard them before. After Arafat's Johannesburg speech, Rabin warned that "if Arafat really said this, it will have serious ramifications." He has not made clear whether "a serious obstacle" is in practice more meaningful than "serious ramifications."

That the PLO should be judged by deeds, not words, is a facile argument. After all, the words themselves cannot hurt, and the PLO is indeed a weak organization vying for influence in the territories with pro-Jordanian and Islamic forces. It is in no position to challenge Israel's power.

But the PLO does not only talk the language of violence. Israeli security sources complain that the self-rule areas have turned into havens for wanted terrorists. The Palestinian police have done nothing to apprehend gunmen who attack Israeli targets. The current steps against pro-Jordanian elements have included not only the dictatorial banning of newspapers, but threats of bodily harm and the torching of businesses. In short, those who have been dreaming of a Palestinian state as the first Arab democracy may be in for a rude awakening.

Few remember that last September 13, Arafat did more than just shake hands with Rabin. He also addressed the Palestinian people on Jordan Television, assuring them that self-rule in Gaza and Jericho was the first phase of the "plan of phases" formulated by the PLO in 1974 for the destruction of Israel. Since then, his actions have been aimed at following that plan by achieving as much sovereignty as possible by negotiations.

That the government's policies will lead to Palestinian sovereignty in the territories is a given. As Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, told a UJA mission in Amman yesterday, "In Israel, only [Likud leader Binyamin] Netanyahu is against a Palestinian state."

And if a sovereign Palestinian state comes into being along the 1949 armistice lines, pronouncements such as Kaddoumi's this week will assume far greater significance.

Woman against the tide

THE Islamic fundamentalist campaign calling for Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin to be hanged, has unwelcome echoes of the death sentence against British writer Salman Rushdie issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

There are differences of course - no state religious leader has issued a fatwa against Nasrin, and Bangladesh is not Iran. The Dhaka government and justice system have behaved with admirable correctness in handling her case and the fury over her writings, orchestrated by the fundamentalist Jamaat el-Islami party, has come from the mosques rather than the establishment.

Nasrin was in hiding in Bangladesh, not from the police but, like Salman Rushdie, from the death threats of murderous extremists. She presented herself for her court hearing - on a carefully chosen and mild charge of offending religious sentiment - and was promptly granted bail by the High Court, with the normal civil freedom to travel where she wished. Police lifted a warrant for arrest on her at once; the warrant, in any case, had been issued for her protection.

The extremists whipping up public sentiment over her alleged offenses have demanded that she be charged with blasphemy and hanged - a farce, since blasphemy is not a capital offense in Bangladesh. The extremists have refused to heed her

contention that she was misquoted by an Indian journalist, who said Nasrin called for the Koran to be rewritten. What she said was that Sharia (Islamic religious law) should be changed - an entirely different matter, since all major religions adapt their laws to deal with changing times.

Bangladeshi fundamentalists are as dangerous as those elsewhere in the Islamic world. Bangladesh, after many difficult years and major social problems, has chosen the admirable Turkish model of an evolving democracy combined with respect for the religious sensibilities of the people. The extremists' aims are, as usual, seizure of power by inflaming religious fervor - the Jamaat el-Islami's political agenda. With only 20 seats in the 330-member parliament, it has been maneuvering for a balance-of-power role between the ruling rightist Nationalist Party and the left-of-center Awami League opposition.

Nasrin, a brash young secular writer who campaigns against social ills, intolerance, and male domination of women, is a vocal counterweight to the fundamentalist's regressive prejudices. Western organizations that will now fetter her must take care not to play into the fundamentalists' hands. They must differentiate between her enemies and the Bangladeshi government, which behaved reasonably, and the country's moderate Moslems.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MDA'S DISINGENUOUS STATISTICS

Sir, - Magen David Adom's acting director-general Yochanan Gur (Letters, J.P., July 24) laments the adverse publicity MDA is receiving in the US in the matter of its services in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. He then disingenuously cites figures to prove his claim that new ambulances are needed more within the Green Line than over it.

A wonderful short book written years ago was titled *How To Lie With Statistics*. Its theme emphasized that one could prove anything by manipulating or misrepresenting data. Mr. Gur uses his statistics to obfuscate the real issues.

The fact is that new ambulances are absolutely essential over the Green Line. The issue of life and death there is paramount. A breakdown or malfunction of an ambulance in an area vulnerable to terrorist attack would endanger the lives of the ambulance crew as well as that of the person being attended to. And, up-to-date emergency equipment is more critical because the distances to hospital facilities are much greater.

Mr. Gur makes the point about mobile intensive-care units with ad-

vanced treatment capabilities crossing the Green Line to meet ambulances from the settlements so patients in emergency situations can be transferred for transport to a hospital. Unwittingly, Mr. Gur proves that the ambulances over the Green Line are outdated and inadequate.

MDA's policies vis-a-vis Samaria, Judea and the Gaza District are undoubtedly discriminatory. The fact that the new minister of health has only now authorized setting up special emergency dispatching points in Israel and Kiryat Arba is indisputable evidence of prior neglect. No doubt, also, that criticism of MDA spurred this tardy action.

Magen David Adom's neglect is why synagogues throughout the US appealed on Tisha-be-Av for ambulance funds on behalf of the territories. The territories ambulance fund drive in the US plus the effort to educate the American Jewish public regarding MDA's behavior will remain an ongoing campaign until Magen David Adom changes its discriminatory policies.

PROF. BERT ABELL,
Chicago (Jerusalem).

POISONED

RELATIONSHIP

Sir, - While on a visit to Israel, reading about the continuing personal rift between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres, I was reminded of an amusing - though probably untrue - story about Alexander Haig and Casper Weinberger, former US secretaries of state and defense, respectively, in the early 1980s.

Knowing that were not the best of friends, a State Department spokesman at the time briefed the press one day that the two secretaries had breakfast together - alone, except for their tasters!

New York. IRA SOHN

PENFRIENDS

JOANNA MAGLIO of 2652 N. La Press Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770, U.S.A., would like to correspond with a handicapped Israeli.
CLIVE HILL of Room 4923, Parkside Hotel, 30 Clapham Common, North Side, London SW4-0AB, U.K. is severely disabled and lonely and would like to have Israeli penfriends.



Saddam's PR exercise

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

once more trust Saddam Hussein is echoed by French, German, Swiss and Japanese businessmen, backed discreetly by some of their government officials. They are pressuring

'Saddam's ploy today is very subtle. He wants to win over the American president and Warren Christopher.'

President Clinton to relax the UN embargo on Iraq.

"We have confidential information that Paris in particular is already making deals for a privileged role in handling the bulk of Iraqi oil supplies once the embargo is lifted," the American told us.

He added: "European, Japanese and other industrialists are today hoping to sell Saddam the means to manufacture not only conventional, but also chemical and biological weapons, let alone nuclear armament know-how, just as they did before the Gulf War."

"Thank God that the Clinton administration has learnt from the blunders of the Bush-Baker administration, who were taken totally by surprise when Saddam invaded Kuwait and threatened to overthrow Saudi Arabia. Our president is turning a deaf ear to the siren voices calling for a relaxation of the UN trade sanctions and arms embargo."

We have learned that unlike the United States, Israel was warned about Saddam's plans. The Peres-Shamir government received prior incriminating evidence from Jonathan Pollard about Iraqi plans to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with its serious consequences for Israel. Instead of activating the Mossad, as happened in 1962-3 when German scientists building rockets for Egypt were targeted with letter bombs, or slaying the killers behind the massacre at the Munich Olympics in 1972, nothing was done.

Said the American expert: "Saddam's ploy today is very subtle. He wants to win over the American president and Warren Christopher. He knows how important peace in the Middle East is for the prestige of both men because of their disasters in foreign affairs. I'm sure he can't believe his lack hearing how there are naive Israelis who swallow his crocodile-tears charade hook, line and sinker."

"The pressure by some Israelis to

Clinton gave notice in January of this year that he was not falling for Hussein's new projected peaceful image. He insisted on the United Nations renewing the trade and economic sanctions against Iraq. This is still his stand today despite the *New York Times* last week recommending that the embargo on Iraq be applied with a lighter touch. Although Saddam has managed to build up his army he is being hurt badly, say Saudi sources. "Baghdad has a debt of some \$1,400 billion today and growing by the second."

The American assessment of Saddam's real plans is somber.

US officials are particularly concerned by the known number of 900 nuclear experts still at work in Iraq. "Despite UN inspections we still don't know the full picture of Saddam's vast military arsenal. We sense that there are nuclear centers about which we are unaware," said the American expert.

"Saddam remains the same Saddam. He's still after the Kuwait and Saudi Arabian oil fields. As we are still unsure of what he is doing despite the inspections, we will be a thousand times worse off if he is given a free hand to buy openly what he wants. The Japanese and Europeans are ready to give Saddam open lines of credit based on his vast oil resources."

There is also a top priority open file on Clinton's desk about Saddam's zeal to avenge himself against America. It contains classified details of his assassination plot against George Bush in Kuwait 15 months ago. This information, together with Iraq's role in international terrorism, was supplied by Iraqi defectors. Also noted in the file are the names of two Iraqi specialists who masterminded the technical details of the World Trade Center bombing.

The couple fled to Baghdad from New York before police knew of their identity.

The Saudi Arabian royal family are more realistic concerning Saddam Hussein's sudden transformation into an angel of peace. They are pressuring Clinton to tighten the embargo screws ever further. Says Riyadh: "Rather than invade Haiti, it makes more sense to send an international army to attack and overthrow Saddam Hussein. There will be no Middle East peace until he is toppled."

We have learnt from Orient House in Jerusalem that Yasser Arafat has sent a message to his good friend Saddam Hussein suggesting that he propose to Israel the reopening of the old oil pipeline from Iraq to Haifa. Transit revenue from this source could then be divided equally between the PLO and Israel, was Arafat's message to Baghdad.

The writers are co-authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on terrorism and the Middle East*.

POSTSCRIPTS

BASEBALL PLAYER Cal Ripken Jr. is on a pace to break Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games, but the Baltimore Orioles shortstop will not be able to match Cal Ripken's streak until 1996.

When 17-year-old Boggess stepped across the stage at Lansdowne (Maryland) High School to accept a pair of scholarships, her streak will end at 2,340 - consecutive days of school, that is.

For 13 years, from kindergarten through high school, Carla hasn't missed a day. Even chicken pox, that childhood scourge, waited to break out until a few days after first grade ended.



Quality of parenting

DEIRDRE S. CHANNING

IT'S the "Murphy Brown" flap all over again, only this time it is even more off the mark.

Somewhat the outcry over a need for family values, which reached a fevered pitch during the US 1992 presidential campaign, has been resumed. But this time the finger-pointing is not coming from former vice president Dan Quayle and the culprit is not a fictional television character who became pregnant out of wedlock and decided to have the baby and raise him alone. This time the attacks are being launched by people as politically and philosophically diverse as Donna Shalala, President Clinton's secretary of health and human services, and conservative columnist William F. Buckley Jr. The object of their scorn: "single parents."

Have our critics of single parents never known intact families (the current term to describe married couples with kids) where the parents were too busy to spend time with the children?

Since neither is known as a staunch supporter of political correctness, it is safe to assume they are not simply using the phrase to refer to unwed teenage mothers. Shalala opposes single parenthood as being bad for the kids; Buckley attributes to it the failure of society to breed responsible, educable young people.

For the moment, exclude from the discussion individuals who have no plans to ever marry but want to have children; clearly they would be single parents, but so too are people whose spouses have died. Are these critics of single parents suggesting that widows or widowers are not fit to raise and care for children?

What about divorced couples? If they have children, they are single parents, but so too are people whose spouses have died. Are these critics of single parents suggesting that widows or widowers are not fit to raise and care for children?

Have our critics of single parents never known intact families (the current term to describe married couples with kids) where the parents were too busy to spend time with the children? Have they never heard tales of married people who abused their kids?

Exactly what is their point? If the issue is that too few children in today's society are receiving appropriate care, guidance and love, I agree; it is a serious problem. But that has little to do with single parents and everything to do with the quality of parenting.

It always has amazed me that our society, which regulates almost every part of our lives, has no prerequisite for people having babies. Even marriage requires a license. Having a baby, however, can require nothing more than a single sexual encounter.

I can just imagine the reaction if parenting was to be included in the school curriculum. Educators now rightly argue that there is a limit to what schools can do; if they are to be held responsible for social needs, how can they meet high academic standards? But if schools don't take on at least some responsibilities that should belong to the home, what happens to children who are neglected, or who have poor role models?

I have known well-educated, affluent couples whose interests do not include making personally sure their children are eating properly, mastering their school work or learning right from wrong.

I also have met hard-working impoverished adults who may not speak English but make sure their children do well at school and respect the law. I'll bet that both Shalala and Buckley know of married couples with highly questionable lifestyles and significantly deficient judgment. They also probably know people who would have made wonderful parents but never married. It is simply too easy to pin even some of society's problems on single-parent households.

Poverty has been shown to be a factor in why some children fail and others succeed. Affluence, however, is no guarantee of success.

Rich kids, poor kids and those in between, may experiment with drugs and alcohol; they may get their hands on weapons and bang out with the "wrong" crowd. Sometimes children with dedicated, sensible and loving parents make disastrous choices.

The households that most likely will breed calamity are those where the parent or parents are themselves children; where drugs and/or abusive behavior is the only lifestyle norm or dad has known; where doing the right thing is less important than having the right things.

Of course, two loving parents are better than one, though they needn't always be in the same household.

Family values are important, but all it takes to make a family is a parent and a child.

The writer is a journalist at the *New York Times*.

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Wife's party dancing makes husband feel he's out of step

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie,
My wife loves to dance at parties. I can't stand the activity myself, and I don't like my wife dancing either, because I think it looks cheap in a woman her age (45). It also leads to all kinds of flirtations - harmless, she says - which make me uneasy.

I don't believe in such a thing as a "harmless" flirtation. My wife says I'm insensitive to her needs. Isn't she being insensitive to mine?

Dancing in Circles
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie,
Your view of how a 45-year-old woman should present herself in public is totally subjective. Whether or not your wife's dancing looks "cheap" is something which ought to be of concern to herself only.

Husbands and wives make demands on each other all the time. But often it isn't in either's best interests to have those demands met.

Your wife could choose to stop dancing at parties - or stop going to parties altogether, to please you. But your victory could be a Pyrrhic one, if the "prize" is an unhappy life partner.

Dear Ruthie,
I have a lady friend who lives down the corridor from me at a residence for the elderly. She was widowed some years back, after tending to her sick husband for a long while. She says she doesn't want to have to go through with that again. I want to ask her to marry me - but should I tell her about my medical problems? I am afraid that if I do, she will be afraid to accept.

Preposterous Proposer?
Netanya

Dear PP,
I think you should tell her. This way, if she does accept your proposal, you will be sure it's because of your charm and good looks.

Hiding relevant information isn't a wise way to begin a marriage - at any age.

Dear Ruthie,
My best friend lives in the States. She is always sending me thoughtful and expensive gifts. She never forgets a birthday, a holiday or the birth of a child.

For years I've been quite good about keeping up. This past year, though, I got lazy, and several major events in her life went by without my sending a present.

Now, she's coming to Israel for a visit. I owe such a backlog of gifts that I don't know where to start. What's more, she's one of those people who has everything money can buy. Got any ideas... in a hurry?

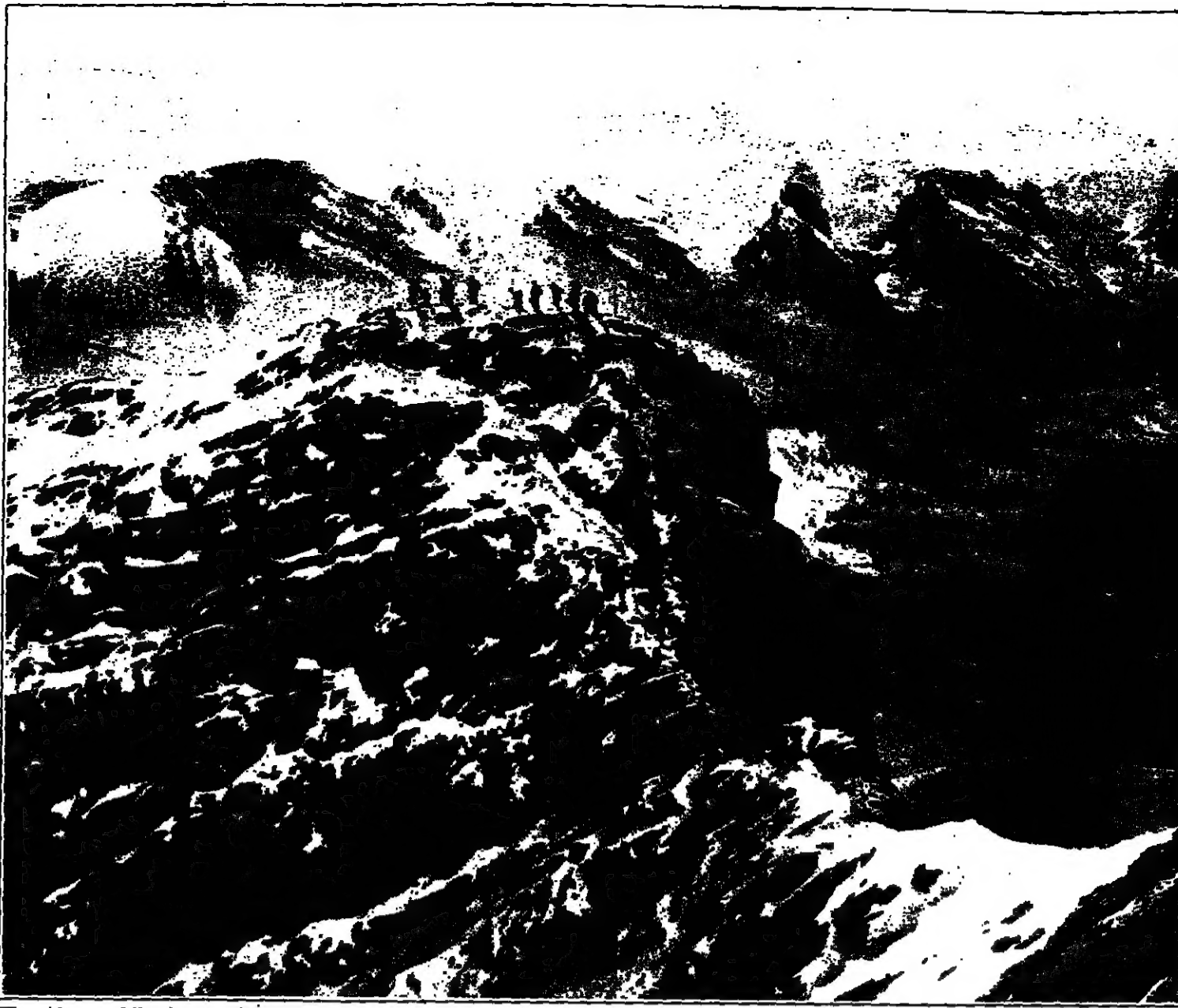
Shiftless & Giftless
Jerusalem

Dear S&G,
First of all, stop keeping score. In doing so, you are robbing your friend of her generosity, rather than appreciating it. Next, find some things she wouldn't think of buying, or to which you have better access.

One example is a subscription to an Israeli magazine. Another might be a scrapbook filled with memories of the two of you, or one with pictures of your children, or hers.

Best of all, simply treat her to a "good time" while she's visiting.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



The Alps, a hiker's paradise, are also the scene of fatal accidents, especially among the inexperienced. (Swiss National Tourist Office)

Summer caveat: Hike with care

TRAVEL
CLARE NULLIS

THE sun-baked Alps, which lure tens of thousands of aspiring mountaineers, are turning into a death trap for the unsuspecting and the ill-prepared.

Within one week - the deadliest so far this summer - more than 20 people died in climbing accidents in Switzerland, France and Italy.

"It's not the mountains that are more dangerous at this time of year, it's the people," commented Sepp Indekum, rescue chief at the Swiss Alpine Club.

During cool days in spring and autumn, the peaks tend to attract dedicated climbers, who are well equipped and know to expect sudden changes in conditions.

But at the height of the vacation period, "day tourists" take over. Many are unfamiliar with the route, reluctant to rise at dawn to start long hikes, and poorly outfitted.

"In most cases, people who we have to help either have very little experience or none at all," said Armando Poli, president of Italian First Aid Corps. "A lot of them get injured and find themselves in trouble in easy situations like pathways through woods."

An exceptionally hot summer throughout Europe has melted the ice layer even on the highest peaks. This has increased the risk of avalanches of loose snow and rock slides.

An avalanche on the French side of the imposing Mont Blanc

mountain - the Alpinists' "European Mecca" - left nine people dead on July 29. Three people were killed in a fall August 4 on the Italian part of the 4,807-meter-high mountain, the tallest of the Alps.

Nine mountain visitors fell to their death during a national holiday weekend in Switzerland. A 74-year-old American woman, who stumbled over a rock precipice and smashed into a dry stream bed 30 meters below, was among the victims, as was a 39-year-old man wearing only sandals.

The worst incident occurred when a rope-party of four Germans, equipped with ski poles rather than proper ice axes, slipped on the Frundenhorn mountain in the central Swiss Alps after setting out when the sun had melted the snow too soft.

"They died because they ignored the basic rules of climbing," said Fritz Loretan, who runs the 2,562-meter high refuge where the party stayed.

In the United States, two hikers lost their footing on a glacier on Mount Hood, Oregon's highest peak, and fell to their deaths.

US rescue officials said warm weather meant the glacier wasn't

safe to climb and the party had no ice axes or crampons (spikes) for their boots.

In the Peruvian Andes, three Europeans died in mountain accidents in July, apparently because too much snow made climbing hazardous.

Before the terrorist Shining Path movement scared away tourists in the 1980s, the death toll in Peru's Cordillera Blanca (White Range) averaged five to six per year.

In Nepal's Himalayas, there were 11 recorded deaths from climbing accidents last year, compared to 24 in 1992.

In Europe, where good roads make the Alps easily accessible, the mountaineering toll is much higher.

Last year in Italy, 242 people were killed in climbing and skiing accidents. In Switzerland, 98 people died climbing or peak hiking - about half of them foreigners. In neighboring Austria, there were 150 victims from climbing and hiking accidents last year.

Despite the fatalities and an ever-increasing number of tourists, Europeans say the annual casualty rate is stable and should be kept in perspective.

About three million Austrians

are keen mountain walkers. Every year about 9,000 of them get injured," said Rupert Kissler, head of the "Live Safely" initiative in Austria. "But if you compare this to soccer, in which 30,000 of the 700,000 participants get injured, then the mountain accidents don't seem so bad."

Wilhelm Becker, head of the Bavarian mountain patrol unit of German Red Cross, echoed that reasoning. He said there was a sudden upsurge in Alpine accidents a couple of years ago when eastern Germans gained the freedom to travel but not the money for proper boots and climbing gear. The situation has since stabilized.

Swiss rescuers complain that in addition to eastern Germans, poorly prepared Bulgarians, Czechs, Hungarians and Russians are encountering occasional problems.

Even though European rescue teams rely heavily on volunteers, costs reach the equivalent of millions of dollars annually.

In Italy, there were 2,135 rescue missions last year, many involving helicopters. In Switzerland the Air Zermatt company made about 900 trips in the southwestern Valais Alps alone. Air Zermatt's Christian Budmiger warns that noninsured climbers are billed up to 70 Swiss francs (\$52) per helicopter minute for rescue operations.

That added diversity. As one man complained, "It's a problem. Everybody wants to be elves."

(Associated Press)

Imaginary dungeons - all the rage in Moscow

LIFE-STYLE
JULIA RUBIN

IT might seem that Russia has had enough battles and plenty of heroes, villains and fools. But Russian fans of English fantasy author J.R.R. Tolkien say they're just getting going. They gather by the dozens each week at twilight in a wooded park called Neskuchny Sad, or Pleasure Gardens, overlooking the Moscow River.

"We have no sources, few books. We're just starting out, like it probably was in America 20 or 30 years ago," said Konstantin Asmolov, a regular at the gatherings. "We need Dungeons and Dragons' humanitarian aid," he said, lamenting that the Tolkien-style fantasy game has yet to appear in Russian.

Many of the Tolkien devotees wear capes and daggers, and a handful in their teens and 20s lounge at each other with homemade swords and spears, slipping and sliding in the mud.

Other fans stand around the columns of an 18th-century house comparing identities and insights into *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and other Tolkien books.

Tolkien's imaginary universe, Middle Earth, inspires such dress-up games in many places, but he is a relatively recent obsession for Russians. The Lord of the Rings trilogy, published in the West in 1954-55, wasn't published in Russia until 1982.

There are a few groups of "Tolkienists" in Moscow, centered on Moscow State University. Many prefer to be called "Tolkienuti," which carries a hint of craziness.

The mostly young, long-haired, bookish group at Neskuchny Sad offers some theories about why this brand of mythology-based fantasy has struck a chord.

"A lot of people say it's catching on here because life is so hard and people need to escape to a prettier life," said Andrei Kabanov, a lanky 16-year-old. "But for me it's just an interesting and wild hobby."

Asmolov said Russia is going through another Time of Troubles, a period of anarchy, famine and foreign invasion in the early 17th century.

"In Times of Troubles, a lot of charlatans appear and there's a desire for magic," he said.

The crowd of dreamers in the woods is also protesting against the Russian yuppie, said Asmolov, a post-graduate student in ancient warfare.

Two women leaving through a copy of *The Lord of the Rings* weren't interested in theorizing.

"I don't know why people come here," said one, who wore a blue cape over her street clothes, an amulet and a gold ribbon around her forehead. "We're not people. We're hobbits."

That added diversity. As one man complained, "It's a problem. Everybody wants to be elves."

(Associated Press)

Darkness revisited - a unique perversion

BOOKS
JOHN RECHY

HEADHUNTER by Timothy Findley. Crown Publishers. 440 pp. \$22.

THIS exceptional novel opens with a smashing paragraph that elevates a reader's expectations:

"On a winter's day, while a blizzard raged through the streets of Toronto, Lilah Kemp inadvertently set Kurtz free from Page 92 of *Heart of Darkness*. Horror-stricken, she tried to force him back between the covers. The escape took place at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, where Lilah Kemp sat reading beside the rock pool. She had not even said come forth, but there Kurtz stood before her, framed by the woven jungle of cotton trees and vines that passed for botanic atmosphere."

Lilah is a schizophrenic, an out-patient in a psychiatric treatment center. She roams Toronto while pushing a baby carriage containing a copy of *Wuthering Heights*. From childhood she has been able to conjure up characters from her favorite books. Now she believes she has unleashed the evil Kurtz of Joseph Conrad's famous novella onto the streets of Toronto, but Kurtz is not a figment of Lilah's imagination. He's the chief of Toronto's Parkin Institute of Psychiatry.

The prospect of Lilah as substitute Marlow (the pursuer of Conrad's Kurtz) tracking down a sinister psychiatrist is exciting indeed.

Alas, Timothy Findley, celebrated Canadian author, opts for more literal parallels with Conrad's novella.

Another psychiatrist - named Marlow! - arrives at the center, a forced development that Findley tries to shrug off: "It's just sort of crazy - the kind of coincidence that happens once in a lifetime." Perhaps because of their allegorical function, neither Kurtz nor Marlow is as engaging as Lilah - she is crafty, wickedly likable, expertly drawn but finally not involved as fully as anticipated in bringing Kurtz out of his new station of power.

FINDLEY INTENDS to locate a contemporary heart of darkness: "If there are new forms of human beings, then it follows there must be new forms of madness." In place of the river up which Conrad's Marlow trails his Kurtz, Findley substitutes the convoluted corridors of psychiatric power ruled, godlike, by a modern Kurtz.

Findley's Marlow discovers that Kurtz is condoning behavioral experiments in controlling the young. Kurtz is aware of, and even visits, the Club of Men, a wealthy group that perpetrates increasing debaucheries.

Another horror is loose in the city. As deadly as AIDS, a new illness, "sturmsemia," is being suspiciously attributed by the government to starlings. D-squads are annihilating birds and wasting landscapes.

Part of this novel's commercial success in Canada may be due to its Canadian readers' familiarity with Toronto society. The uninitiated reader may find the book too long and become frustrated by its extended descriptions of city landscapes, its vast cast of glamorous named characters (Fabiana, Julian Slade), each of whom, major and minor, carries loads of unneeded background. There's too much fussy action: Cigarettes are lit and snuffed, olives recurrently fished out of martinis.

Findley does not finally fulfill his own high ambitions: "Every Kurtz must have his Marlow, and Marlow will always come back to take Kurtz home.... With every journey up the river, we discover that Kurtz has penetrated just a little farther... through darker mysteries."

What Findley locates is more a unique perversion than the universal evil he has promised to explore, mysteries "darker" than Conrad's.

The depravity here is too specific to stand as metaphor for the mysteries posed by real, near-ungraspable horrors that have occurred since the original Kurtz appeared: the Holocaust, the slaughter at My Lai, the lingering indifference to AIDS - much more brutal than the sturmsemia Findley imagines - the emergence of "ethnic cleansing," the hundreds of acts of daily brutality.

Asking why Marlow always appears in order to pursue Kurtz, Findley proposes: "... because he is beholden to Kurtz for having provided him, after darkness, with a way to find new light." Findley does not contribute such "new light" of possible redemption. The relative hopefulness of his ending seems imposed.

Despite the fact that his novel succeeds only partially, Findley deserves high praise for his daring to explore grand themes, and to do so in fine, literate writing.

(Los Angeles Times)



GIVE THEM LIFTS!

Casino-free Turkey trip is a sure bet

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

WHILE many Israeli tourists going to Turkey see casinos as an attraction, at least one tour organizer is offering vacation packages there where the hotels do not have gambling.

Europa Tours' World Travel Center also notes that each hotel in Belek, east of Antalya, has allocated only 50 rooms for Israelis, thus ensuring they will not be inundated with their fellow countrymen. Prices start at \$490 for a week, including half board and air fare.

JEEP TOURS for haredim are now available through Kibbutz Hafetz Haim. The organizers assure participants that men and women will be seated in separate vehicles.

Also available from the kibbutz are excursions on all-terrain vehicles and boating and fishing in the kibbutz fish ponds.

MALTA is the latest destination being promoted by Arkia. Prices

to London start at \$537. Also available are one-way fares to North and South America, including \$399 to New York, \$409 to Boston, \$473 to Miami, \$539 to Rio and \$699 to Buenos Aires.

THE HOD Hotel at the Dead Sea is offering guests a fourth night free, or a 50 percent reduction on one night of a three-night weekend.

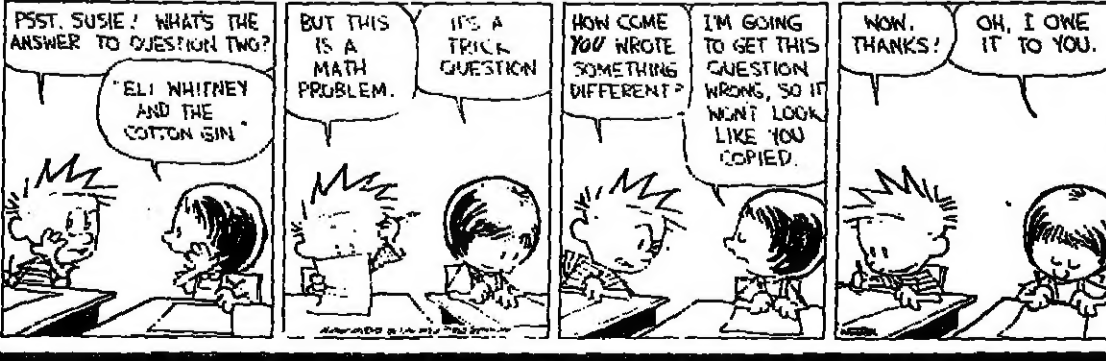
Children in a separate room also pay half price. The prices for bed and breakfast, before the reductions, are NIS 440 per couple.

AIR FRANCE is offering a round-trip fare of \$999 to New York, valid until September 20. The airline is also offering a free rental car for a week, including insurance, taxes and unlimited mileage to a minimum of two passengers on morning flights on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. That offer is valid until October 2.

ISSTA, WHICH specializes in travel for students and young people (up to age 26), has published its prices for travel during the holidays. For example, round-trip airfare for London, Paris or Zurich is \$369, while a seven-night package

Calvin and Hobbes

BY BILL WATTERSON



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1994

GDP falls 5.7% in 2nd quarter

THE Gross Domestic Product fell 5.7 percent in the second quarter of the year, as the closure of the territories cut down construction activity and the Hebron massacre reduced tourism, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The GDP measures the total value of goods produced and services provided by the economy.

The business product, which measures private sector activity, dropped 10.2% compared with the first quarter, due to the sharp decline in construction and a relatively moderate increase in industrial production.

Despite the drop, both the GDP and the business product rose 5% during the first half of the year following first quarter increases of 7.8% in the GDP and 10.2% in the business product.

Eli Sagi, director of Economic Models, was not surprised by the GDP drop and said his company had predicted it six months ago. He expects, however, that economic growth will moderate in the next two years. "We have stopped at a new level and the economy will grow slightly in 1995 and in 1996 and then will pick up steam."

As for the third quarter, Sagi predicts the GDP to drop slightly and then to inch up in the year's last quarter.

Sagi attributes the slowdown in the economy

JOSE ROSENFELD

to the virtual halt in the government's efforts to increase the economy's efficiency and to the reduced flow of immigrants. These two factors were most responsible, according to him, for the impressive growth that has been registered since the beginning of the decade.

The government's efficiency measures, including the liberalization of trade, capital markets, and privatization, which began in 1985 as part of the stabilization program to combat rampant inflation, provided a major push to economic expansion. Now, that force has slackened, he said.

Immigration also contributed to growth by pushing up demand. However, now that the rate of immigration has dropped, no new significant demand is being created, Sagi said.

The dramatic fall in the stock market also played a significant role in cooling down the economy. Although the fall did not cut down private consumption and investment as many expected, it had a marked impact on the financial services sector which is reflected in the smaller GDP, Sagi added.

Additionally, in the past two years, the stock market's high yields distorted business considerations, as businesses profited more from investments in the stock market than from their industrial activity. As a result, instead of focus-

ing on efficient and profitable production, businessmen relied on stock market winnings to show profits. Since the stock market fell, companies have discovered they were not run profitably and had to become efficient. The change was reflected in first quarter balance sheets showing operating losses.

Sagi, however, was more optimistic about the levels of investment in the economy despite an 8.6% drop during the second quarter. According to him, investments, other than construction, continued growing. In the past 3½ years, investments grew by 77% cumulatively.

Imports of equipment and machinery have risen by 15% during the first half of the year and are 18% higher than last year's average.

Private consumption grew 5% in the second quarter after jumping by 24% in the previous quarter. During the first half of the year, private consumption rose 14%, or by 12% per capita compared with the second half of last year.

Exports dropped 7% during the second quarter, following a sharp increase of 23% in the previous quarter. During the first half of the year, exports grew at an annual rate of 10%.

Imports jumped 25% in the second quarter, after shooting up 33% in the first quarter. Rising fuel and diamond imports and tourism abroad were responsible for the increase.

Fixed-rate, unlinked bonds to be issued

JOSE ROSENFELD

BELIEVING that the public is gaining confidence in the economy's stability, the Treasury announced yesterday that, for the first time, it intends to issue fixed-rate, unlinked bonds.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday asked the Knesset Finance Committee to approve the issue of the bonds. The Treasury explained that bonds of this type are used extensively in other countries and that at a time when inflation is relatively stable, the public will be interested in purchasing them.

Deputy supervisor of capital markets Moshe Sagui said that according to an informal survey undertaken by the Treasury, there is a market for the new bonds. He admitted, however, that it wasn't clear how large a market it is.

Should the Knesset Finance Committee approve the request, Sagui expects the government to issue about NIS 100 million worth of the new bonds, with a two-year maturity.

The bonds could be issued for periods ranging from two years to 20 years, and interest income will be tax-exempt.

The Treasury currently issues Galil, Sagi, and Kfir index-linked bonds, Gilboa dollar-linked bonds, and unlinked Gilon bonds that pay variable rates.

Elron profits drop 60% to \$789,000

RACHEL NEIMAN
COMPANY RESULTS

ELRON reported second quarter net profits of \$789,000, a 60 percent decline compared with the \$1.98m. figure recorded in the same period last year. Revenues rose by 12% to \$2.5m., from \$2.2m. last year. More than 80% of all revenues were exports.

The company said profits were affected by poorer performances of subsidiaries Elbit and Elscint compared with last year. In the second quarter, Elron invested \$1.7m. in Fibronics International.

Elbit subsequently announced the acquisition of the firm and will pay Elron some \$2m. on its investments.

CEO Uzia Galil said Elron and its affiliates "have entered into new stages in their development, which should result in continuous growth in the years to come."

• **Tadiran Consumer Products** reported second quarter net profits of NIS 4.5m. compared with NIS 6.4m. during the same quarter last year. The firm had revenues of NIS 110.15m., up from NIS 103.7m. in 1993.

Tadiran intends to continue its policy of competing directly with importers and making the transition to low-priced goods.

• **Tamboa** reported a 50% drop in second quarter net profits to NIS 3.33 million, compared with NIS 6.7m. The company had revenues of NIS 92.9m. compared with NIS 96m. in the same quarter in 1993.

• **Fertilizers and Chemicals** reported a decline in second quarter net profits to NIS 1m. compared with NIS 2.7m. The firm had revenues of NIS 81.9m. compared with NIS 88m. in the same period last year. Earnings per share were NIS 0.24 compared with NIS 1.79 last year.

The company blamed the drop on the continued world crisis in the fertilizer market.

• **Mul-T-Lock** announced second quarter net profits of NIS 3.2m. compared with NIS 4.5m. The company had revenues of NIS 46.9m. compared with NIS 44.4m. in the same period last year. Earnings per share were NIS 0.19 compared with NIS 0.30 for the second quarter of 1993.

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Harish: Make Haifa Port into free trade zone

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish yesterday presented the cabinet with a proposal to turn the Haifa Port area into a free trade zone.

Under the proposal, businesses that locate in the area will be exempt from corporate taxes for seven years and will be required to pay a reduced rate of 30% thereafter. Additionally, the tax on distributed dividends will be cut to 15%.

Harish noted Haifa's unemployment rate is 2.25 times higher than in Tel Aviv and 2.7 greater than in Jerusalem. Upgrading the regulations of the existing Free Ports Area Law will enable the rapid establishment of a new industrial zone which would attract many entrepreneurs, Harish said.

Since Haifa is not a development zone entitled to the benefits of the Capital Investments Encouragement Law, the port will attract primarily industries that do not require large capital or equipment investments, such as software, research and development and electronic companies.

The proposal requires the Knesset Finance Committee's approval.

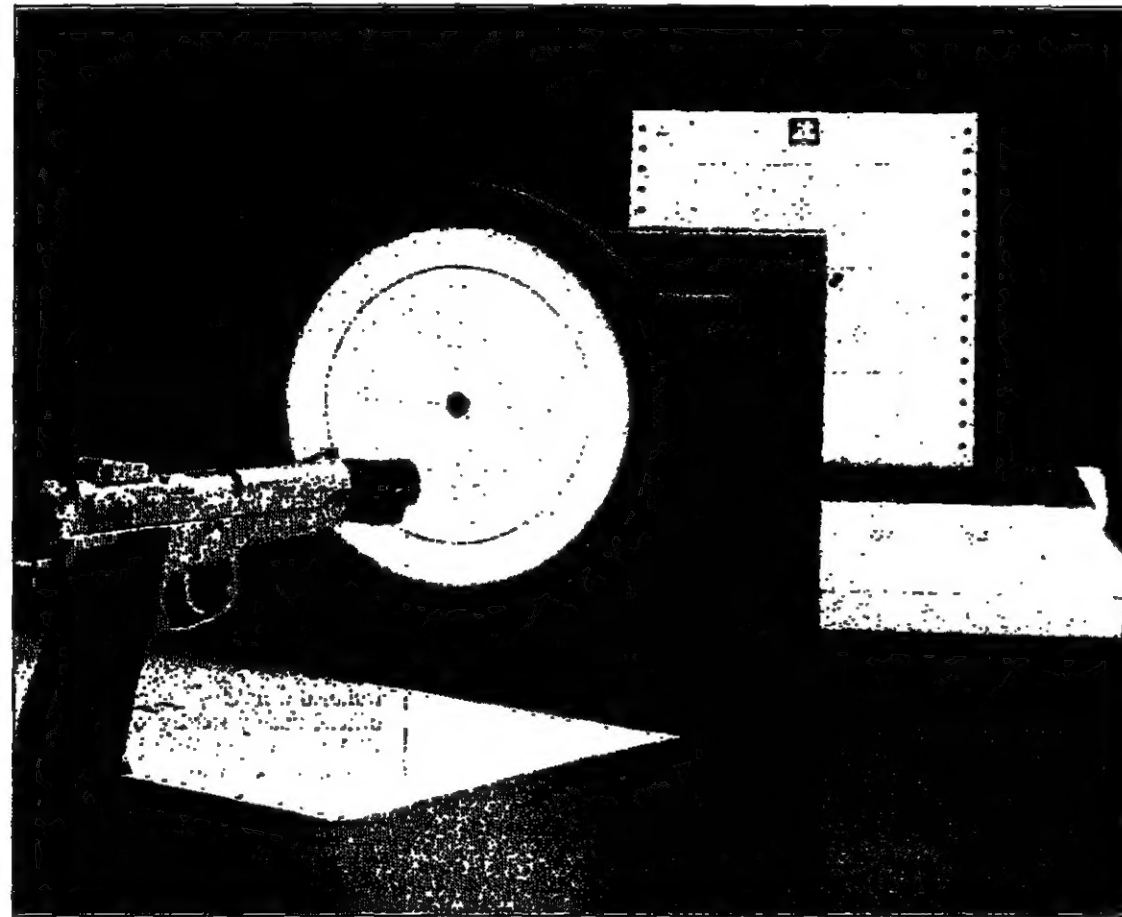
Hapoalim made deal with Bank of Jordan

NEIL COHEN

BANK Hapoalim signed a deal with the Bank of Jordan in March, whereby it will provide the Jordanian bank's branches in the territories with shkel and foreign currency banking services. Bank Hapoalim revealed yesterday. The services will include clearing checks, conducting foreign trade activities, and providing training to Bank of Jordan employees.

Bank of Jordan, the country's fifth largest bank, was the first Jordanian bank to open branches in the areas, and the agreement at this stage applies only to its Ramallah and Nablus branches.

At the Bank of Jordan's request the pact was kept secret until yesterday, when Jordan decided that developments on the diplomatic front made publication possible.



Beamhit's laser beam training target system: No danger of stray bullets and no noise.

Target practice in the living room

RAINE MARCUS

WOULD-BE sharpshooters can now practice marksmanship and the correct handling of personal weapons at home, thanks to a laser beam training target system developed by Beamhit Systems.

The system is the first of its kind worldwide, and is currently used by local security forces. It is also being marketed in Europe, the US, and the Far East.

The system saves on the expense of live bullets and shooting

ranges, according to Beamhit General Manager Haim Eshel. "There is also no danger of stray bullets, and there is no noise," he added.

The company, which is a subsidiary of International Technologies Lasers, has developed two models - the Beamhit 110, which costs NIS 1,000, and the 330 computerized version, which can be used with any computer, for NIS 3,500.

Both systems, which use a laser beam against a variety of stationary and moving targets, can be adapted to nearly any weapon type, including the M-16 assault rifle, air pistols, and low and high caliber revolvers.

The system can also help the user improve his grip, timing, stance, and trigger squeeze.

The computerized version provides printouts enabling the user to examine results and analyze mistakes.

IEC to widen pool of legal advisers

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Israel Electric Corporation announced it will use the services of additional law firms to represent the company in some of its legal casework.

An IEC special committee, headed by attorney and ex-MK Uriel Lynn, decided the firm will use other law firms for cases not unique to the company after the Government Companies Authority put pressure on IEC to widen its pool of legal advisers.

Until now, the company has exclusively used the services of S. Horowitz and Solomon-Lifschitz law firms for over 40 years.

According to the authority's protocol, a company's board of directors needs to approve a relationship with a given firm for more than nine years by a two-thirds majority. IEC's board has granted

this extension in the past to the two law offices.

IEC will continue to use the services of S. Horowitz and Solomon-Lifschitz in cases involving rights, tenders, power stations, share issues, labor laws, prospectuses, matters of principle, and property rights.

IEC's exclusive ties with the two law firms is due to end in mid-1995. Representatives of the firms had no comment on the matter.

Ports & Railways Authority

Head Office

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PURCHASE

1. The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (P.R.A.), in accordance with its obligations with regard to tendering procedures, under the International Agreement on Government Procurement, GATT, wishes to obtain quotations for the supply of the following equipment:

Item	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Add. Opt.
1.1	3141/007	Illumination Masts: 25 m. (for Ashdod port) 28 m. (for Haifa port)	38 31	100% 100%

- The anticipated delivery - as soon as possible.
- Tender documentation and specifications for the above-mentioned masts are available upon the payment of NIS 1170 (to the order of the P.R.A.) at the address below. All forms and proposals must be submitted in English.
- The P.R.A. is not obligated to purchase any masts offered and may, at any time revise or cancel its request as to the type and quantity that it wishes to purchase. Further, the P.R.A. is not obligated to purchase the lowest priced masts offered. The P.R.A. reserves the right to proceed with or discontinue negotiations with any or all potential manufacturers, as specified in the tender documentation.
- The last date for submitting proposals is September 18, 1994 at 1500 hrs.
- The address for the receipt of the tender documentation and for the submission of proposals is:

Ports and Railways Authority - Israel
Purchasing Division
74 Petach Tikva Road, 11th Floor, Room 1125
Tel Aviv 61201, Israel

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THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL
The Ministry of Finance - The Accountant General

Bids are invited for the supply of clothing and footwear (work clothes) - bulk order for government agencies located throughout Israel:

Tender 24/94 - Bulk Order of Clothing and Footwear (work clothes)

Last date for submitting bids: Sunday, October 2, 1994, 1 p.m.

The tender documents are available at the Tenders and Buying department, the Accountant General's Office, Room 725 or 726, Min. of Finance Building, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem.

Additional details from Tel. 02-317428, 02-317418.

...contracting is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bonds has raised \$530m. this year: Israel Bonds President Nati Sharoni yesterday announced the organization raised \$530 million during the first seven months of the year and it plans to raise a total of \$900m. this year. Sharoni emphasized Israel Bonds is focusing its efforts on reaching as many Jews as possible rather than increasing sales. "We would rather have 20 percent more individuals buying and 30% less in sales," he said. Sharoni added that including an annual overhead of \$45m., the Bonds' cost of raising money has been dropping and is not much more expensive than the US loan guarantees.

Egg prices to drop: Egg prices are expected to drop between 15% and 20%, following a NIS 105m. increase in government price supports agreed upon this week by the finance and agriculture ministers.

About a year ago, a program to reduce excess egg production and eliminate administrative limits on production was implemented at a cost of NIS 135m. The government has now found that excess production has not dropped fast enough, and has therefore decided to supplement the existing program, bringing the total price support for eggs through 1996 to NIS 240m.

Shohat, Harish uphold Investment Center appeals: Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat upheld 37 appeals of Investment Center decisions regarding investors' applications for government assistance. The special appeals committee approved 11 of the projects and rejected the remainder. Harish and Shohat approved grants to two factories that are being built by Dunhill Company in Beersheba. The company will invest \$40m. on the factories.

Geos to analyze field data for Midland Scottish Energy: Geos, the Haifa-based developer of a unique seismic data analysis method, will carry out tests to identify gas and oil reserves in the North Sea's Emerald Field for Midland Scottish Energy.

The company, a partnership between Haifa software house Imagen and emigrant mathematician Dr. Leonid Lobovkin, is now negotiating a joint marketing venture with Alliance Resources of London, which made the original contact with Midland.

The Buenos Aires Stock Market notified the TASE that trading was interrupted on July 18 to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the bombing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan yesterday said by the time government economic data show inflation is stirring, taming it can be difficult and costly.

Defending why the Fed has raised interest rates this year while inflation appeared to be in check, Greenspan made clear the monetary moves were aimed more at the central bank's view of the economy next year than at current activity.

Greenspan testified before a House Operations subcommittee examining whether the vast economic data-gathering machinery of the federal government produces information that is useful in guiding monetary policy. *Reuter*

Nickel prices drop: Nickel prices fell sharply yesterday as metal stockpiled at a Siberian mine in the Arctic Circle during the winter started to pour into the world market.

On the London Metal Exchange prices touched a three-month low of \$5,760 a ton, down \$110 from Tuesday. However, support later in the day saw the price recover to \$5,825 by the close.

Nickel, whose main use is in stainless steel, has lost 16 percent of its value since the end of May but is still well above the lows reached late last year. *Reuter*

Banesto on the road to recovery: Results at Spanish bank Banesto, the first released since its rescue by the Bank of Spain last year, showed it was restoring its financial health in the first half of this year, analysts said.

But a clear picture of the business performance of Banco Espanol de Credito-Banesto SA would most likely not emerge before next year.

The bank late on Tuesday announced a \$168.3 million first-half loss and said efforts to improve efficiency, particularly on costs and loan recoveries, were beginning to have success. *Reuter*

LVMH profits rise sharply: French luxury goods group LVMH - purveyors of champagne, cognac and jet-set luggage - announced a sharp rise in first-half sales yesterday. It reported improvements in all sectors but especially the Louis Vuitton luggage and leather goods business, where demand outstripped supply and some customers were even forced to put up with rationing.

At LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton, maker of Moet et Chandon champagne and Hennessy cognac, which has just taken over French perfume house Guerlain, turnover jumped 19.6 percent in the first-half of 1994 to \$2.22b. *Reuter*

Dresdner reports 11% profit rise: Dresdner Bank AG, Germany's second-largest commercial bank, said yesterday its first-half operating profit rose 11% despite big writedowns on bond holdings, and predicted higher net earnings for the full year.

The bank said its group operating profit after provisions set aside for bad debt rose to \$660.3m. from \$594.3m. in the same period a year ago. *Reuter*

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

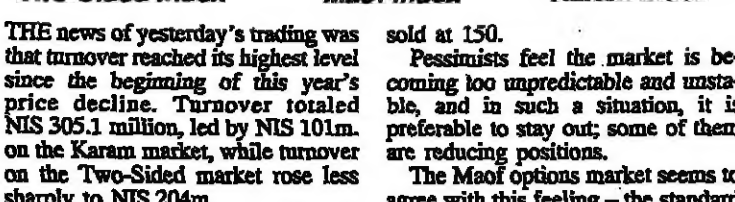
Petach (foreign currency deposit rates) (10.8.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.125	4.500	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.575	4.000	5.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.000	4.250
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	3.950	3.975	3.950
Yen (¥10 million)	0.750	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.8.94)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rates*
U.S. dollar	3.5410	3.5850	3.5650
German mark	3.0189	3.0824	3.0420
Pound sterling	1.9127	1.9586	1.9278
Japanese yen (100)	4.6225	4.7073	4.6478
Australian dollar	0.5284	0.5383	0.5333
Swiss franc (100)	2.8814	3.0234	2.9526
Dutch guilder	1.7035	1.7272	1.7153
Swedish krona	2.2740	2.3000	2.2870
French franc	0.2673	0.2694	0.2683
Portuguese escudo	0.4573	0.4435	0.4504
Danish krone	0.4851	0.4820	0.4835
Israeli new shekel	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Canadian dollar	2.2005	2.2314	2.2160
South African rand	2.2386	2.2714	2.2550
Belgian franc (10)	0.0252	0.0245	0.0248
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7201	2.7594	2.7397
Italian lire (1000)	1.5071	1.5559	1.5315
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	—
Israeli new shekel	3.4811	3.7024	3.5918
Israeli new shekel	4.0000	4.0000	4.0000
Israeli new shekel	2.2265	2.2553	2.2408

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Prices rose as well. At one point, the Two-Strided index posted a 2.9% rise and stood at 199.82, however, by day's end the index stood at 197.32, up 1.6%. The Maof rose by 1.5% to 196.3, and the Karam jumped by 4.1% and now stands at 213.03.

There seemed to be two sets of forces at work. On the positive side, the mutual funds industry registered NIS 50m. in purchases and started buying. Similarly, some provident funds were testing the waters and buying selectively, particularly since they are now quite liquid, considering the lack of new bond issues by the government.

There were reports that some investors were returning to their money managers after fleeing the market recently, when the Two-Sided index was at 150. In other words, they were buying back at 197 what they had

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters)—UK shares ended barely changed after a lackluster day, recouping most of their earlier losses in later afternoon, traders said.

"It's summer market where the

technical positions dominate," said Mark Tinker, strategist at James Capel. "The nearer the futures get to 3,320, the market runs out of steam. There is still good underlying tone in the market."

The FTSE 100 finished down 1.6 points at 3,167.0, close to the session's best of 3,168.6, after touching a low of 3,152.2. The FTSE mid-250 shed 9.5 points to 3,716.9. Volume was 588.5 million shares by 1530 GMT.

FRANKFURT - German shares trimmed their losses by the close of official trade yesterday to close only slightly down on the day.

The DAX index of 30 leading shares ended 3.83 points lower at 2,160.37, up from its intraday low of 2,153.70. The index was little changed in post-bourse trade, standing at an IBIS-indicated 2,161.49 at 1400 GMT.

Shares in Dresner Bank closed official trade one mark higher after news that the bank's half-year group operating profit rose to 1.04 billion marks from 936.lm. — at the lower end of expectations.

But the bank also said it expected higher 1994 net profit at both group and parent level.

Shares in chemicals and metals group Degussa AG fell 11 marks to 502.50 on profit-taking following recent gains. The stock has climbed nearly 9 percent since July 14.

Trading volumes remained very low due to the holiday season.

PARIS - French shares ended the session lower for the third consecutive session yesterday as they tracked other markets and particularly bonds, but managed to close above the day's

points or 1.82% higher at 9,618.08.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed lower after failing to show any strength in the afternoon session as investors watched from the sidelines. The All ordinaries ended 10.3 points lower at 2,076.5.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks rose yesterday as worries eased about interest rates, the US Treasury's refunding auctions and this week's data on inflation.

Technology issues led the broader market higher. Investors have been encouraged by the strong second-quarter earnings reports, analysts said.

Statistics on July inflation and retail sales are due out on today and tomorrow.

Analysts expect those readings will determine whether or not the Fed nudges interest rates higher for the

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 11.00 to 3,766.76.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 5 to 4 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,184 up, 944 down and 726 unchanged.

fifth time this year when its policy setting Federal Open Market Committee meets next week.

Uncasiness about the economy and interest rates had depressed the stock

Big Board volume totaled 279.47 million shares as of 2000 GMT, against 259.02 million in the previous session.

Among other major market indica-

and bond markets in recent days. Indeed, investors have been reluctant to plunge into the government's three-phase refunding auction, which began Tuesday with a lackluster performance.

In the first leg, the Treasury sold \$17 billion in three-year notes. Yes-

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFr
MARK	0.147714	84.0000	0.840000	0.4022037

MARK	—	0.4107/11	0.4107/11	0.4107/11	0.4107/11
STERLING	2.4332/42	—	155.73/85	2.0501/30	8.3257/67
YEN	1.5615/28	0.6415/22	—	1.3180/76	5.9451/77

SFr	1.1857/89	0.4871/78	75.91/88	—	4.0585/38
FFr	0.2820/22	0.1200/01	18.57/72	0.2481/84	—

Prior to 23:00 local time

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES					
	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFr
MARK	—	0.4107/11	64.00/03	0.8428/31	3.4222/37
STERLING	2.4332/42	—	155.73/65	2.0601/30	0.3267/67
YEN	1.5615/28	0.0415/22	—	1.3180/76	5.3461/07
SFR	1.1667/89	0.4671/78	75.51/86	—	4.0095/36
FFr	0.2820/22	0.1200/61	18.57/72	0.2461/84	—

Prices from 22:36 local time

[illegible][illegible]

100

Haifa taught Eurolesson by steady Salzburg

ORI LEWIS and DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Haifa's famous green strip was proof of their lack of international experience when they crashed to a rare 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Casino Salzburg last night in a first-leg European Champions Cup match.

The Austrians stole a late deserved victory and will host Haifa in Vienna in two weeks' time with a comfortable away-goals margin.

Haim Revivo broke the scoreless duel in the 48th minute from the penalty spot, after striker Vasily Kargas was fouled.

Austria came back with an equalizer in the 83rd minute when Adolf Huetter scored from the edge of the penalty box. In the final minute, Croatian Mladen Madenovic scored a penalty to all but spoil Haifa's dream of joining the cream of Europe in the next round's lucrative Champions League.

Haifa started the match with a brief flourish

when Ukrainian close season signing Kargas surged down the left wing and shot wide of the 'keeper. But then the match turned listless as both sides packed the midfield and failed to find any inspiration up front.

Of note in the first half was Oleg Kuznetsov, the Haifa sweeper, who didn't let anything get past him. His staunch marshaling of the home defense was very impressive in the scoreless 45 minutes.

The 10,000-odd spectators had barely time to get back to their seats for the second half when the drama began. In the 48th minute, Kargas broke through into the area after another good pass from Berkowitz only to be felled by Huetter with only Konrad to beat.

Turkish referee Ahmet Cakar didn't hesitate

and blew his whistle for a Haifa penalty. Revivo, signed less than two weeks ago from Hapoel Tel Aviv, screwed the ball low to the right of Konrad who saw the ball slip under his body and into the back of the net.

The Austrians panicked after the goal and Haifa sensed the possibility of adding to their tally.

Sensing that time was slipping away, Salzburg's Croatian coach, Otto Baric brought on his star striker Heimo Pfeifenberger. The tall Austrian almost scored within minutes of his callup, and it was then that Haifa's dream began to disintegrate.

First, coach Giora Spiegel made some strange decisions. In the 74th minute, Spiegel brought on attacker Najwan Grayev for Revivo

who had asked to come off.

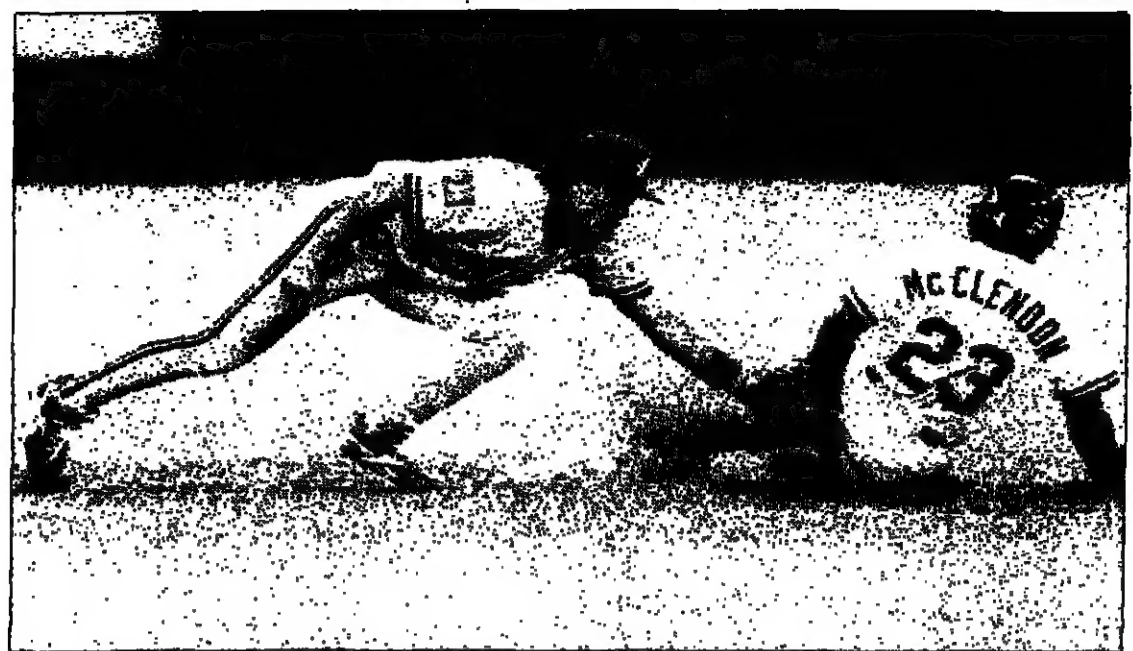
Spiegel then took Kuznetsov off and brought on Shai Holzman, another attacker. Within a minute, Salzburg was denied by the woodwork when a long-range shot struck the crossbar.

Haifa then conceded a free-kick which proved to be the telling blow as Moshe Giam's headed clearance fell to Huetter who volleyed home a superb strike to give Cohen no chance in goal.

Tragedy struck a minute from time when Moshe Giam was adjudged to have tripped Toislav Kuciam in the area.

Mladenovic stepped up to take the penalty and made no mistake sending Cohen the wrong way and the Austrians and their 200-or-so jubilant supporters the right way.

In other action, AEK Athens beat Glasgow Rangers 2-0.



PIRATE PILFER - Montreal SS Wil Cordero puts a late tag on Pittsburgh's Lloyd McClelland who swiped second. (Reuters)

Errant toss causes Bosox ruin

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Twins pitcher Pat Mahomes, in the game as a pinch-runner, scored the winning run in the 12th inning on reliever Todd Frohworth's throwing error as Minnesota beat Boston for their fourth straight victory on Tuesday.

With one out, Frohworth (0-3) walked Keni Hrbek on four pitches and Mahomes came in to run for the first time this season. Shane Mack was then hit by a pitch.

Chip Hale followed with a chopper back to the mound that Frohworth fielded cleanly. But Frohworth's throw sailed wide of first baseman Mo Vaughn, allowing Mahomes to score his first major league run. Mahomes, pinch running for the first time in the majors, became the first pitcher to score in the AL since Erik Hanson did it twice last season as a pinch-runner for Seattle.

Mariners & Rangers 5
Tino Martinez homered for the third straight game and visiting Seattle handed the Rangers their fifth straight loss.

The Rangers still lead the AL West despite dropping a season-worst nine games under 500 (52-61). Texas began the night with a 1½-game lead over Oakland.

Tigers 10, Brewers 4
Cecil Fielder hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high six runs, powering host Detroit.

Fielder's seventh career grand slam, his first since April 1993, keyed a six-run sixth for the Tigers. On Monday night, the Brewers used a 10-run inning to bounce the Tigers 12-4.

Alan Trammell and Mickey Tetlow each hit two-run homers and Lou Whitaker had four straight singles for the Tigers. Fielder hit his 28th home run.

Orioles 6, Yankees 5
Brady Anderson's two-run single in the top of the sixth inning won for Baltimore.

The Orioles are eight games behind the AL East-leading Yankees, and 2½ games behind Cleveland for the wild-card spot. Baltimore has only one game left before Friday's strike deadline.

The Yankees lost for just the third time in 12 games.

Jamie Moyer (5-7) won for the first time in five career decisions against the Yankees. Lee Smith pitched a scoreless ninth for his 33rd save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Giants 3, Cubs 2

Darren Lewis hit a two-run, bases-loaded single off Randy Myers with two out in the ninth inning for visiting San Francisco.

Myers relieved in the ninth after Steve Trachsel allowed five hits over eight innings. Todd Benzing singled with one out for his third hit. One out later, Myers (1-5) walked pinch-hitters Darryl Strawberry and Steve Scalet.

Lewis, who struck out with the bases loaded in the seventh, singled to center to score pinch-runners Mike Benjamin and Bill Swift.

Dave Burba (3-6) won in relief, and Rod Beck got his 27th save - retiring Steve Buechele on a fielder's choice to end the game with the bases loaded.

Expos 4, Pirates 3
Visiting Montreal won for the 19th time in 21 games as Marquis Grissom stopped a 2-for-25 slump by going 4-for-5 with two RBIs.

Since losing four straight to San Francisco immediately after the All-Star break, the Expos (73-39) have lost just twice in three weeks and are 34 games over .500.

for the first time in franchise history. Larry Walker hit a solo homer as the Expos beat John Leiber (6-7) for their fifth victory in a row overall and fifth straight against Pittsburgh.

Kirk Rueter (7-3), Mel Rojas and John Wetteland combined on a five-hit, Wetteland worked the ninth for his 24th save.

Reds 5, Dodgers 3
Reggie Sanders' two-run homer highlighted a five-run fourth inning off struggling Tom Candiotti.

Host Cincinnati held onto first place in the NL Central with only its second win in five games. Los Angeles fell back to .500 (56-56).

The Reds batted around in the fourth against Candiotti (7-7), who has been hit hard in his last two starts.

Phillies 5, Mets 1
Curt Schilling won at home for the first time since last year's World Series, pitching a five-hitter.

Mariano Duncan hit a two-run homer as

the Phillies ended a five-game losing streak.

Four Phillies had multi-hit games as Philadelphia chased Mets starter Mike Remlinger (1-5) with 11 hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Padres 4, Astros 3
Andy Ashby pitched a strong game and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as visiting San Diego ended Houston's six-game winning streak.

Ashby (6-11) allowed six hits while striking out seven and walking one in eight innings. Trevor Hoffman gave a run in the ninth, but got his 19th save.

Ashby singled to start the eighth against Shane Reynolds (8-5), who then left the game after hitting Rip Roberts with a pitch. Derek's Bell's infield hit off Mike Hampton later in the inning scored Ashby from third.

Tony Gwynn got two hits for San Diego, putting his average at .393.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

American League
BATTING - O'Neill, New York, .364; Belle, Cleveland, .358; Thomas, Chicago, .354; Latoro, C., .349; Boggs, N.Y., .345; Molitor, Toronto, .345; Wicker, Texas, .323.

RUNS - Thomas, C., 105; Lofton, C., 104; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 92; Belle, C., 88; Phillips, Detroit, 82; Canseco, Texas, 88; Molitor, Tor., 85.

RBIs - Puckett, Minnesota, 105; Thomas, C., 101; Belle, C., 101; Carter, Tor., 101; Franco, C., 97; Sierra, Oakland, 92; Canseco, Texas, 90.

HITS - Lofton, C., 155; Molitor, Tor., 153; Belle, C., 148; Thomas, C., 140; Baergs, C., 138; Puckett, Minnesota, 137; Franco, C., 137; Cripken, Baltimore, 137.

HOME RUNS - Griffey Jr., Seattle, 38; Thomas, C., 38; Belle, C., 36; Canseco, Texas, 31; Fielder, Detroit, 28; Carter, Tor., 26; CDavis, California, 28.

STOLEN BASES - Lofton, C., 56; Coleman, Kansas City, 50; Nixon, Boston, 42; Knoblauch, Min., 38; Byrd, Baltimore, 31; ACole, Min., 29; Meites, KC, 28.

PITCHING (12 Decisions) - Key, N.Y., 17-3, .850, 3.19; Bore, C., 11-2, .846, 3.90; McClark, C., 11-3, .788, 3.82; Mussina, Bal., 16-5, .782, 3.08; Cone, K., 16-5, .782, 2.94; MIPerez, N.Y., 9-4, .882, 4.03; Ruhlman, Sea., 12-6, .887, 3.31; Wegman, Mil., 8-4, .867, 4.35; Sanderson, C., 8-4, .867, 5.05.

STRIKEOUTS - Ruhlman, Sea., 189; Clemens, Bos., 188; Finley, Cal., 146; Apple, K., 145; Hentgen, Tor., 143; Cone, K., 132; McDowell, C., 127.

SAVES - LeSmith, Bal., 33; Montgomery, KC, 27; Aguirre, Min., 23; Eckstein, Oak., 18; Hall, Tor., 17; Ayala, Sea., 17; Fetters, Mil., 17; Russell, C., 17.

East Division

New York Yankees W 7 L 41 Pct. .631 GB 0
Boston Red Sox W 6 L 42 Pct. .590 GB 1
Toronto Blue Jays W 5 L 43 Pct. .539 GB 2
Detroit Tigers W 4 L 44 Pct. .474 GB 3
Cleveland Indians W 3 L 45 Pct. .400 GB 4

Central Division

Chicago White Sox W 6 L 46 Pct. .569 GB 0
Cleveland Indians W 5 L 47 Pct. .519 GB 1
Kansas City Royals W 4 L 48 Pct. .469 GB 2
Minnesota Twins W 3 L 49 Pct. .419 GB 3
Milwaukee Brewers W 2 L 50 Pct. .369 GB 4

West Division

Texas Rangers W 7 L 41 Pct. .631 GB 0
Oakland Athletics W 6 L 42 Pct. .590 GB 1
Seattle Mariners W 5 L 43 Pct. .539 GB 2
California Angels W 4 L 44 Pct. .474 GB 3
Los Angeles Dodgers W 3 L 45 Pct. .419 GB 4

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Detroit 10, Milwaukee 4
Toronto 12, Cleveland 5
Baltimore 6, New York 3
Seattle 5, Texas 2
Minnesota 4, Boston 3 (12)
Kansas City 5, California 3 (11)
Oakland 4, Chicago 2

West Division

Los Angeles W 7 L 41 Pct. .631 GB 0
San Francisco W 6 L 42 Pct. .590 GB 1
Colorado W 5 L 43 Pct. .539 GB 2
San Diego W 4 L 44 Pct. .474 GB 3
Houston Astros W 3 L 45 Pct. .419 GB 4

Central Division

Cincinnati W 6 L 46 Pct. .569 GB 0
Houston W 5 L 47 Pct. .519 GB 1
Pittsburgh W 4 L 48 Pct. .469 GB 2
St. Louis W 3 L 49 Pct. .419 GB 3
Chicago W 2 L 50 Pct. .369 GB 4

East Division

Montreal W 7 L 41 Pct. .631 GB 0
Atlanta W 6 L 42 Pct. .590 GB 1
Philadelphia W 5 L 43 Pct. .539 GB 2
Florida W 4 L 44 Pct. .474 GB 3
New York Yankees W 3 L 45 Pct. .419 GB 4

Central Division

Chicago W 6 L 46 Pct. .569 GB 0
Cleveland W 5 L 47 Pct. .519 GB 1
Kansas City W 4 L 48 Pct. .469 GB 2
Minnesota W 3 L 49 Pct. .419 GB 3
Milwaukee W 2 L 50 Pct. .369 GB 4

West Division

Texas W 7 L 41 Pct. .631 GB 0
Oakland W 6 L 42 Pct. .590 GB 1
Seattle W 5 L 43 Pct. .539 GB 2
California W 4 L 44 Pct. .474 GB 3
Los Angeles W 3 L 45 Pct. .419 GB 4

Central Division

Chicago W 6 L 46 Pct. .569 GB 0
Cleveland W 5 L 47 Pct. .519 GB 1
Kansas City W 4 L 48 Pct. .469 GB 2
Minnesota W 3 L 49 Pct. .419 GB 3
Milwaukee W 2 L 50 Pct. .369 GB 4

Maccabi Tel Aviv in icy reception

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Tel Aviv is the last of Israel's soccer triumvirate to enter European combat this week, playing tonight in Iceland against part-timers Keflavik in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Avraham Grant has remodeled the State Cup holders with the purchase of last season's top scorer Alon Mizrahi from Maccabi Haifa, and Belarus midfielder Uri Shuknov.

Mizrahi is injured and will miss tonight's fixture, so the responsibility of scoring will fall on the shoulders of Avi Nimni and Eli Drori following the transfer of Itzik Zohar.

The draw has proved kind to the Tel Avivians, who should have no trouble in overcoming their opponents in both legs.

Avi Nimni commented before the squad flew to Iceland that they would not make the mistake of underestimating their hosts, and that the match could be difficult. Nevertheless, European opposition rarely comes much lighter than Keflavik, and Maccabi should be seeking confidence-boosting wins in both matches to stand the side in good stead for the more difficult challenges that lie ahead.

The town of Keflavik, situated on the southwest of Iceland, has a population of just 5,000. The team's minuscule stadium holds just 2,000 spectators and attracts an average of 500 fans each match. Tonight's spectacle, kicking off at 10 p.m. (Israel time) should see the ground packed by the local townsfolk.

Managed by former Icelandic international Peter Petersen, Keflavik lost their Cup final last year, but advanced to the Cup Winners' Cup when their victorious opponent Alkmaar took the league title as well, then opted to compete in the UEFA Cup.

The return leg will be played at Ramat Gan on August 25. Tel Aviv's probable starting line-up: Obarov, Cohen, G. Brumer, Shaleh, Hillel, Shoham, Klinger, A. Brumer, Nimni, Shuknov, Draks.

Bonds quits West Ham

LONDON (AP) - Billy Bonds ended a 27-year association with West Ham United yesterday when he resigned as manager.

Bonds turned down the chance to become a director of the East End club, and after 24 hours of intensive discussion with the board, the former Hammers defender decided to leave.

Harry Redknapp, assistant manager for the last two years, takes over as the new chief at Upton Park. He becomes only the eighth manager in the club's 100-year history.

Bonds, 47, made his debut for West Ham in 1967, won two FA Cup medals in 1975 and 1980 and played the last of his record 794 games for the club in April, 1988.

Two years later he took over as manager, leading the Hammers to promotion to division one in his first full year in charge.

They were back down and then up again in the next two seasons, and have stayed up since, finishing 13th in the Premiership last season.

Menswear, Newcastle United bought Belgium World Cup defender Philippe Albert for £2.65 million.

Bransky beats Miller in bowls

SAM SKUDOWITZ

CECIL Bransky became Kfar Hamaacabiah Men's singles champion when he beat Chaim Miller 21-14 in one of the best finals in years.

Bransky, the current holder of the World's Triple Championship, beat Ralph Rabman in the semifinal by 21-9 after being down 19-12. Miller, who beat George Karmansky 21-12 in the other semifinal, had to be content with a runner-up position for the second successive year.

The Ladies' singles was won by Carmel Scop who beat Haya Prager 21-20. With one bowl to play, Prager lay game but Scop converted the one-shot deficit to a two-shot plus to win.

Scop also had an inspired win in the semifinals, fighting back from 17-6 to win 21-19 against Molly Skudowitz. In her semifinal, Prager had triumphed 21-15 over Rende Kusan.

At Savoyon, youth was the order of the day with two juniors contesting the men's singles final. Amir Yaron, 17, profiting from his recent experience in Scotland, easily beat Tomer Sandier 21-4.

Golan comes in last place

JOEL GORDIN

ISRAELI sprinter Kfir Golan finished last in the 200-meter heats yesterday at the European Athletics Championship in Helsinki.

He got off to a slow start and finished in 21.54 seconds, slower than his personal best of 21.40.

Overall, he was ranked 28th of 30. He also failed to reach the second round in the 100m, on Sunday.

Pole-vaulter Danny Krasnov will take part in the finals today. Discus thrower Sergei Lakashuk will go into action in the heats of his event tomorrow, and Dov Cremer runs the marathon on Sunday.

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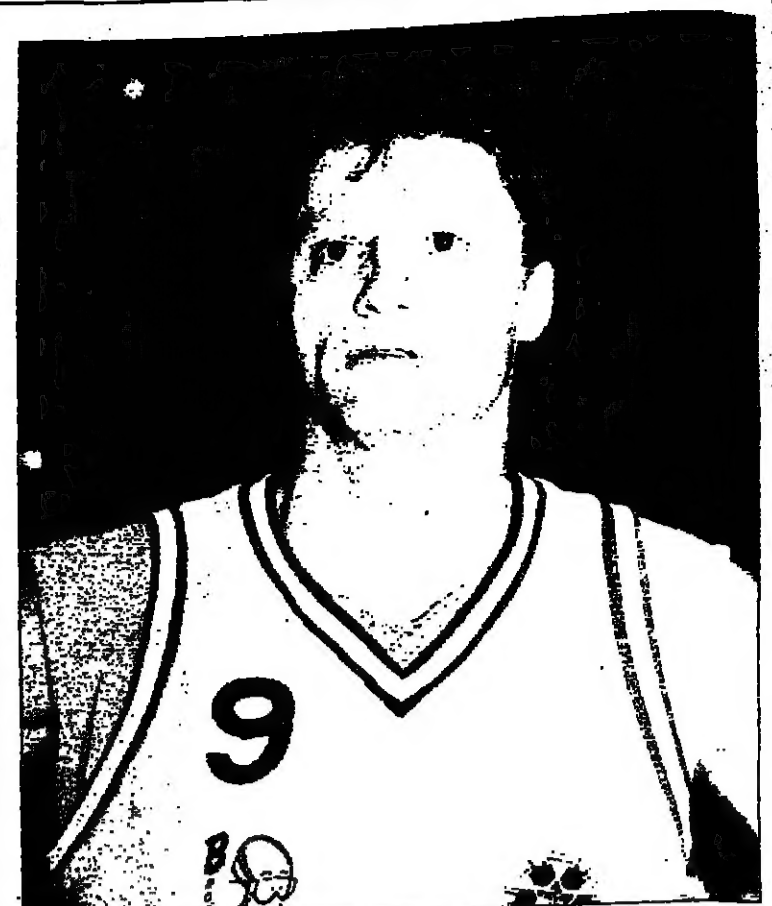
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CROSSING THE RUBICON - Mickey Berkowitz, linked forever with Maccabi Tel Aviv, goes over to Hapoel. (Hanoach Guhmann)

Berkowitz to Hap TA after Maccabi talks reach dead end

JOEL GORDIN

ISRAEL'S most famous home-grown basketball talent, Mickey Berkowitz, has signed with Hapoel Tel Aviv for the next two seasons.

Berkowitz, 40, joined Maccabi Tel Aviv as a teenager in the early 1970s and was elevated to the senior team in the 1973/74 season. He was a star for Maccabi during the club's most successful years.

He captained the team for almost a decade and took part in Maccabi's European titles in 1977 and 1981. At the same time, he played more than 200 matches for the national team.

Berkowitz left Maccabi Tel Aviv for Maccabi Rishon Lezion before the 1988/89 season. Although never confirmed by an official source, it was reported he left mainly due to friction with rising star Doron Jamchee.

Last season, Berkowitz played for Hapoel Jerusalem, helping them reach the Final Four. He had hoped to play a final season this year for Maccabi Tel Aviv. He confirmed yesterday that he had been in intensive negotiations for more than a month.

While admitting he had taken a "drastic step" and had "shattered an image," he recalled that other players like Lavon Mercer and coaches such as Zvi Sherf and Ralph Klein have also drifted between the two clubs.

With the club, but the talks broke down on Sunday.

Berkowitz declined yesterday to confirm reports that the reason for the failure was Jamchee's opposition to the deal. "I don't know what happened to make them change their mind," he said.

However, the move to Hapoel Tel Aviv, Maccabi's traditional rival, caught most fans on the wrong foot.

When the rumors initially started circulating on Tuesday, they were denied by Hapoel.

"I wanted to take part in the European Club Championships during my last years on the court," Berkowitz told Army Radio yesterday. "Things did not work out with Maccabi, so my next choice was Hapoel [the other Israeli team which will play in the tournament]."

While admitting he had taken a "drastic step" and had "shattered an image," he recalled that other players like Lavon Mercer and coaches such as Zvi Sherf and Ralph Klein have also drifted between the two clubs.

US rolls over Aussies

TORONTO (AP) - The US national basketball team, with its quick-striking offense on target again, is halfway to its goal of a World Championship of Basketball gold medal.

The US team, averaging 120.5 points a game, or three a minute, pulled away from Australia for a 130-74 victory Tuesday night, giving the Americans a fourth straight victory and a 1-0 record in their quarter-final round-robin.

Reggie Miller made five 3-pointers and scored 23 of his 31 points in the first 11 minutes of the second half as the US rediscovered its 3-point shooting by hitting 14 of 22 after missing 13 of 16 Sunday against Brazil.

Miller led a barrage that turned a 10-point halftime advantage into an 101-58 rout by 8:33 remaining.

The 1992 US team, averaged 117.3 in its 8-0 showing at the Olympics. At the pace the latest American team II is scoring, it would average 144 points in an NBA-length game.

Mark Price scored 17 points and Dan Majerle 14 for the US. Andrew Gaze scored 23 points and Mark

Bradley 16 for Australia, which finished second behind Croatia in its preliminary pool.

Shaquille O'Neal, who went into the game leading the team with a 20.3 average, did not play in the second half and finished

Bus fares to rise 6% next month

JOSE ROSENFELD

BUS fares are expected to rise next month by 6%. Treasury officials announced yesterday.

This is based on a cabinet decision yesterday approving a NIS 100 million increase in subsidies to public transit, that will limit semi-annual fare hikes to 1 percent over inflation until March 1996.

However, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar promised that fare hikes would only be in line with inflation, because he will demand from both the Egged and Dan bus companies to undertake efficiency measures to lower their operating costs.

Although Finance Minister Avraham Shohat wanted to freeze the subsidy at this year's level of NIS 633m., the cabinet sided with Kessar, who requested an increase of NIS 140m. and compromised at NIS 100m. Kessar's proposal would have limited bus fare hikes to inflation.

Egged officials said that government subsidies fail to cover the discounts the bus cooperative is required to give to children, soldiers, senior citizens and welfare recipients. According to Egged, the discounts amount to NIS 500m., while the government subsidy only covers NIS 300m.

The cabinet also agreed to Kessar's request to establish special public transit lanes in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The government, however, has yet to decide on a budget for the project.

The cabinet also concluded their discussions on next year's budget spending priorities. Shohat said that the ministers approved his proposal, although he said that next week he would discuss with each minister specific spending proposals for their individual ministries.

Shohat hinted that he has an

understanding with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that defense spending will not increase next year.

Under the budget proposal, the government will have to cut NIS 900m. in current expenditures. Shohat said that the Treasury will propose freezing civil service hiring as a way to cut spending. In addition, he wants to reduce industrial grants in development zones from 38 percent of the project to 30% in zone A and from 20% to 15% in zone B.

According to Treasury Budget Director David Brodet, the grant reduction will save the state NIS 40m. next year and NIS 240m. over the following three years. Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, however, opposes the cut.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Freinkel called for the establishment of a special authority to resolve the traffic crisis with a mandate to plan land and transportation use, and to coordinate other infrastructure development such as electricity, water and telephones.

Freinkel also reiterated his call for larger tax cuts than the NIS 800m. already agreed. He noted that with NIS 5.8 billion in additional spending next year, out of which NIS 3.5b. will go toward paying wage hikes in the public sector, greater efforts are needed to lower taxes that reduce labor costs and encourage economic growth.

Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban praised the government for its economic accomplishments, including the sharp drop in unemployment among new immigrants. But he demanded additional funding to better exploit the skills of highly educated immigrants who have been unable to find work in their professions.



Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hamdi Al-Banbi visits the Temple Mount yesterday with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassoumy. (Stein/Hanari)

Israeli company to establish oil refinery in Egypt

LIAT COLLINS

AN oil refinery will be established in Egypt by an Israeli company, according to Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hamdi Al-Banbi, who is on a three-day visit here.

He held talks yesterday with Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Ezer Weizman. It was decided at the meeting that an Israeli delegation will soon travel to Egypt to continue the discussions.

Al-Banbi confirmed that the Israeli company Medor, owned by Yossi Maiman, has received all the necessary permits to establish an oil refinery in Alexandria.

"We know the company found a site on which to establish a refinery and [the project] is at an advanced

stage," Shahal said. The project is expected to cost millions of dollars.

There will be a refinery in Alexandria built of the best technology available. This is a joint investment between Israelis and Egyptians. The crude oil will be supplied from Egypt and other places and the products will be sold in Egypt and Israel," Al-Banbi said.

Several Egyptian delegations have visited recently to discuss joint deals for natural gas, Shahal noted.

Israel is interested in the gas to produce electricity. An Israeli delegation will go to Egypt in the next few days to discuss details of the natural gas plan, the two ministers said.

Regarding talks of building a nat-

ural gas pipeline, Al-Banbi told Israel Radio: "We agreed in principle to export gas to Israel and to the [Palestinian areas]. We are waiting for the technical and economic studies and the time frame that is needed to develop the gas fields in Egypt prior to making a real commitment to this supply of gas."

The two ministers both want greater joint cooperation with the Palestinian autonomous areas. "They will be supported by both parties, because in my opinion, and Mr. Shahal's opinion, giving a great push to the Palestinians is a great push to the peace treaty itself," Al-Banbi told Army Radio.

Shahal said he favored allowing the Palestinian Authority to import petroleum products from where ever it sees fit, since it would force Israeli companies to become more efficient in order to compete. In other matters, Shahal suggested that Egypt serve as a route for petroleum products from countries which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. "Egypt can definitely be a country via which we can purchase petrochemical products from third countries, including Saudi Arabia," Shahal said.

The Egyptian minister promised to raise with his government the problems posed by a ban on trucks crossing the border which prevents, among other things, oil drilling equipment from being transported between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Labor's Histadrut faction yesterday demanded that the labor federation's control committee be headed by an opposition representative, as is customary in the Knesset and the local authorities, to assure proper monitoring of activities.

They thus rejected a proposal by MK Ran Cohen of Ramat Gan to turn the executive committee's presidium, which he heads, into the Histadrut's control committee.

Histadrut to call on ex-officials to cut pensions

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut Parliament, in its session on Sunday, is to call on all former Histadrut officials who are receiving budgetary pensions but who have another position, to give up part of their pensions, sources in the labor federation said yesterday.

This category includes scores of former officials, including Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Masha Lubelsky.

Sources also said that Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon is formulating a plan for an across-the-board wage cut for employees at Histadrut headquarters after the holidays in September.

The plan to cut wages was discussed at a meeting in Ramon's office yesterday, a participant in the meeting said. The wage cut would not include the lowest wage earners at the headquarters and would be carried out in consultation with the works committee, the source said.

Meanwhile, Labor's Histadrut faction yesterday demanded that the labor federation's control committee be headed by an opposition representative, as is customary in the Knesset and the local authorities, to assure proper monitoring of activities.

They thus rejected a proposal by MK Ran Cohen of Ramat Gan to turn the executive committee's presidium, which he heads, into the Histadrut's control committee.

Pinni Shomer, the head of the Histadrut's organization and labor council section, said at the faction meeting that Cohen's proposal is not in keeping with the state comptroller's regulations, according to which a member of the opposition should head the control committee.

Livneh: More Katyusha attacks possible

DAVID RUDGE

MORE Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee are possible, especially at times when Hizbullah feels it is being attacked, the outgoing head of Home Front Command Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livneh said yesterday.

Livneh, responding to reporters' questions, said it would be unwise to assume that the attacks last weekend would be the last.

"I think we have to prepare here [in Galilee] for days of battle in the future, in the hope that they won't come about but which in my opinion quite possibly will occur," said Livneh.

He spoke to reporters during a farewell visit to residents of the North, during the course of which he stopped at the Western Galilee moshav that was hit by Katyusha

rockets over the weekend.

Three children were lightly injured in the attack when a rocket struck their home in the center of the moshav, blasting a hole in the wall of the building, destroying one of the family's cars and badly damaging another.

Local residents said their moshav had borne the brunt of most of the rocket attacks in the past year, and it would be given priority in the ongoing construction of security rooms in towns and villages across the northern border.

This followed complaints from local residents that the vast majority of homes in the moshav did not have specially constructed security rooms designed to withstand the

blast from a Katyusha rocket.

The house that was struck early last Saturday morning was built according to security specifications with reinforced concrete, which according to local residents undoubtedly prevented more serious casualties.

"We are in the midst of a program to complete the construction of more than 2,000 security rooms along the whole of the northern border," Livneh said. "In light of recent events, we will also take steps to speed up and give priority to the completion of those security rooms that are missing in this moshav over other settlements."

In general, Livneh said there remains the long-distance threat

from countries not involved in the peace process.

"We are all happy with the peace process and wish it every success, but it has to be supported by deterrent capability and the ability to subdue threats in the future," said Livneh.

"It should be remembered that the peace talks are taking place with neighboring countries," he said. "We still don't have talks or any kind of peace process with countries further away, and the threat to the home front is actually from those more distant countries."

"For those reasons, the preparedness of the [Home Front] command and the construction [of security rooms] is continuing, in the hope that we will never have to use it," he added.

Outgoing defense college head: 'Soldiering should be a profession'

SOLDIERING should become a profession in the same way that medicine is a profession, Maj.-Gen. Yossi Ben-Hanan, the outgoing head of the National Defense College, told military reporters yesterday.

"We are an army that, from the days of the Palmah until today...[remains known for] our expertise at improvisation," said Ben-Hanan, who is leaving the post after four years.

Like doctors, soldiers deal with life-and-death matters, Ben-Hanan said. But though a doctor studies his profession for seven years, a company commander —

working in an environment far more complicated than an operating room — has to rely on his wits to guide him.

This is especially true of a battalion commander, who is responsible for hundreds of soldiers and must direct their activities, drawing on the example of their predecessors, intuition and talent.

Some 60 percent of officers at the rank of brigadier-general have never attended the Staff Training College, Ben-Hanan said.

But an increasing number of officers were taking academic-level courses at the staff and defense colleges.

He noted that the colleges maintained academic ties with Haifa University and Tel Aviv University, and were finalizing ties with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

This allows officers to receive academic credit for courses taken at the colleges.

He added that 52 students, among them 35 army officers, would be studying in a more formal academic track at the defense college this coming year.

There was stiff competition for the places, Ben-Hanan said, and the opening of a parallel class was being considered. (Iim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy injured playing 'road roulette' dies

Ten-year-old Michael Sharabi, who was hit by a car and seriously injured while playing "road roulette" on Tuesday, died yesterday at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

The boy was playing with a friend in a park in Rishon LeZion when Sharabi suggested that the two dash across the street and back. Sharabi's friend refused to join him. He then ran across the street, and on the way back he was hit by a car.

Sharon had Jordan border fence moved

Likud MK Ariel Sharon said yesterday that as a general he ordered soldiers to move the border fence with Jordan eastward into Jordan in the 1970s.

Sharon said that when he was OC Southern Command, he ordered the fence moved for the length of over 100 kilometers (60 miles) in the Arava, to prevent terrorist infiltrations.

"Moving the fence doesn't mean moving the border," said Sharon. "No man knows exactly where the border is."

Oman praises Jordan-Israel peace moves

Oman said yesterday it welcomed the accord signed by Israel and Jordan as a positive step forward, the first public declaration of support for the agreement by a Gulf Arab state.

"The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah confirmed that Oman supported the agreement because it is a step forward to a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue," the official Oman news agency said.

It said the minister at the same time urged Israel to work for a breakthrough for peace with Syria and Lebanon. "Without it, peace in the Middle East will be set back and the region will be in a state of instability," the agency said. (Reuters)

Sheffi says he'll oppose Golan concessions

Labor MK Ya'acov Sheffi said yesterday, while touring the Golan, that he would vote against any concessions on the heights, even at the risk of causing a government crisis.

Sheffi was hosted by Golan Heights leaders, who plan to invite other Labor MKs to visit the area to convince them to vote against any concessions. (Iim)

Late MK Tawfik Zayyad remembered

Some 5,000 people attended a memorial service last night for late Nazareth mayor and MK Tawfik Zayyad, who was killed in a car accident last month while returning from a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Jericho.

The ceremony was held at a high school in Nazareth to mark the end of the 40-day Moslem mourning period. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni represented the government, saying Zayyad made great contributions to the peace process. (Iim)

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds

Israeli girlfriend of Egyptian diplomat says he attacked her

RAINE MARCUS

HAYARKON police questioned an Egyptian diplomat yesterday after his Israeli girlfriend complained that he had attacked her.

The woman, who has been romantically involved with the diplomat for some time, filed the complaint with police yesterday. She said the man had cut her hand with a knife during a quarrel. However, police said she suffered only light injuries and did not need hospital treatment.

The diplomat, stationed at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, was summoned for questioning and was then released.

He cannot be prosecuted because he has diplomatic immunity. However, police stressed that he was not suspected of committing criminal offenses. But in cases in which police wish to press charges against a foreign diplomat, they must receive a court order and permission from the ambassador.

Former ambassador Eliahu Lankin dies at 79

ELIAHU Lankin, who died early yesterday at age 79, was a former ambassador to South Africa and a well-known Jerusalem attorney who specialized in civil law.

Lankin was an Irgun Zva'i Leumi leader who commanded the IZL ship *Alatena*, which was sunk by the IDF off the Tel Aviv coast during the War of Independence after refusing to turn over its weapons.

Lankin was born in Gomel, Russia and was educated in Harbin, China. He arrived here in 1933, working first as a watchman and unskilled laborer before joining IZL the following year.

He fought against insurgents during the 1936-1939 Arab revolt and helped conduct the IZL's Aliya Bet operations.

In 1939, Lankin was sent to Poland, where he underwent a special training under the auspices of the Polish Army.

The Poles secretly assisted IZL in the hope that terrorist actions would bring about the lifting of the White Paper and allow Polish Jews to emigrate.

After the founding of the state, Lankin became a Herut Knesset member. He also studied law at Hebrew University and was admitted to the Bar in 1953.

He later became chairman of the Regional Committee of Lawyers Organization, a member of the board of the Broadcasting Authority and a trustee of the Hebrew University and of the Public Council for Israel Radio.

He was also a member of the directorate of the Company for the Reconstruction of the Old City.

In 1981, Lankin was appointed ambassador to South Africa by Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He served in the post until 1985.

Lankin's wife, Doris Kaplan-Lankin, served for many years as the legal editor of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Lankin is to be buried today in

Three Christian worshipers forced off Temple Mount

BILL HUTMAN

THREE Christian tourists were forced to leave the Temple Mount yesterday by Wakf officials and police after starting to pray there.

"Prayer is only permitted by Moslems on the Temple Mount," Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

"They were asked to leave because the place is meant for Moslem prayers and not Christian prayers, and because of concern that their presence would provoke unrest," Ben-Ruby added.

Stan Goodenough, a Christian journalist, said he organized the prayer to test reports he had heard that Christian prayer was forbidden on the Temple Mount.

He said it is widely known that Jews are not allowed to pray there, but that people do not re-

alize that a similar prohibition exists for Christians.

"We were accosted by a Wakf official," Goodenough said. "He yanked me to my feet as I knelt to pray. He said it was forbidden

for everyone but Moslems to pray there."

Goodenough said the Temple Mount is also holy to Christians because it is prophesied to be the site of the second coming of Jesus.

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